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State evangelism conf. offers diverse ministries

Tony Martin
Associate Editor

"Something for everyone" might be the term that best describes the 2010 Mississippi Baptist State Evangelism Conference, held Jan. 31 - Feb. 1 at First Church, Biloxi.

The event, sponsored by the Evangelism Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, kicked off Sunday night. Praise and worship was led by Michael Sharp along with the First Church choir and orchestra. Tony Merida, teaching pastor of Temple Church, Hattiesburg, brought the message. Merida was on the ministry-based faculty of New Orleans Seminary, served as the Dean of the Chapel at New Orleans, and was senior pastor at First Church, Kenner, La.

Merida preached again Monday morning following praise and worship led by Sharp. After a second time of praise and worship, the message was brought by Wayne Hudson. Hudson, Kosciusko, is president of the Council of Mississippi Baptist Evangelists.

Preaching from Acts 4, Hudson stated, "If we have been with Jesus, it should be apparent that we have been with Him. It ought to be apparent that God is up to something that is bigger than you and me. And it ought to be apparent that I've got to tell about Him."

Breakout sessions after lunch were led by P.J. Scott, whose conference dealt with connecting your church with your community; and Hudson and Ronnie Cottingham, vocational music evangelist from Lucedale, who dealt with the who, why, and the what of the vocational evangelist.

The first of three afternoon sessions began with Tamara Lowe of Get Motivated Seminars, Inc., Tampa, Fla. Lowe is recognized as one of the world's most successful speakers and consultants, having trained more than two million people in seventy



GOOD DOG - Hank Hough, of Kingdom Dog Ministries, is shown with his Labrador Retriever, Prophet. Hough uses his dogs as illustrations of the power of obedience in the life of believers. (Photo by Tony Martin)

countries. Lowe, a former drug addict and dropout, is unabashed about sharing her faith. She discussed marketplace evangelism in her conference - how to motivate people to share their faith. "Everybody wants Jesus," Lowe said. "The problem is that we're not communicating effectively. The world has heard what we have to say, but they aren't exactly crashing our party." Lowe had conferees divide into pairs and practice sharing their testimonies, and offered some conversation starters that people might use in opening conversations about Christ.

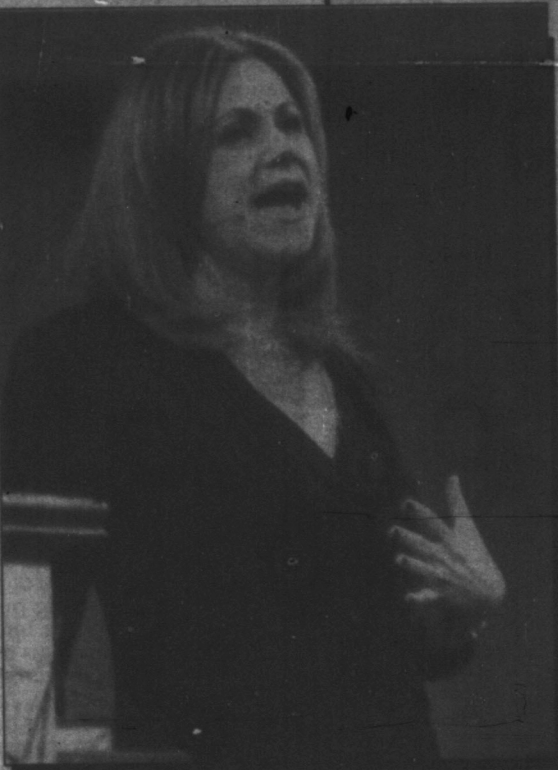
Lowe was followed by Preston Nix, Associate Professor of Evangelism and Evangelistic Preaching, occupying the Roland Q. Leavell Chair of Evangelism, Director of the Leavell Center for Evangelism and Church Health, and Chairman of the Pastoral Ministries Division, New Orleans Seminary. Nix shared his testimony of having lost virtually all of his personal belongings during Hurricane Katrina - library, sermons, other personal belongings, and at about the same time almost losing his wife to meningitis while on a family trip. He spoke on the blessings of disaster, using Philippians 4 as his text. "Disaster can be a blessing when it drives you to depend more on the Lord," Nix said. "You can trust God to give you what you need when you need it."

Hank Hough and Kingdom Dog Ministries followed Nix. Hough, a Texan, used his Labrador retriever, Prophet, as a visual illustration of obedience to Christ.

"Prophet is a missionary dog," said Hough, tossing a rubber "bumper" into the crowd for Prophet to fetch. "He can find that which was lost." At one point, Hough had the congregation try to distract Prophet and call him by name. Prophet only responded to Hough's voice. "He recognizes his name," said Hough, "but he only responds to his master's voice."

The conference closed with a message from Kevin Hamm, senior pastor of First Church, Gardendale, Ala. Hamm came from Valley View Church, Louisville, Ky., which grew during his nine-year tenure as pastor from 300 to 2700 weekly worshippers. Preaching from Acts 16, Hamm said, "Somehow we got the idea that if we could just get rid of the problems in the church, we'd have revival. But revival comes when Jesus shows up. He shows up in the midst of difficult times, when we get serious about God. God never chose for the church to be a museum for saints, but a hospital for sinners ... One of the reasons 85% of our churches are plateaued or dying is because we want people to come, but we want them to be just like us."

The Mississippi Baptist State Evangelism Conference is supported annually by gifts to the Mississippi Cooperative Program. For more information on the work of the Evangelism Department, contact director Don Lum at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3278 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 278. Email: jellis@mbcb.org.



MOTIVATING THE CROWD - Tamara Lowe, of Get Motivated Seminars, Inc., shares with the attendees at the Mississippi Baptist State Evangelism Conference strategies of how to motivate church members to share their faith. Lowe's business training company produces America's largest business seminars. (Photo by Tony Martin)

Annual March for Life inundates Washington

WASHINGTON (BP)—Tens of thousands of pro-life Americans marched in the U.S. capital on the anniversary of the nationwide legalization of abortion with fresh encouragement for their cause.

In fact, Southern Baptist ethicist Richard Land said he is more convinced than ever that the Supreme Court's legalization of abortion will be reversed in his lifetime.

Meanwhile, President Obama reaffirmed on the same day, Jan. 22, his support for a "fundamental constitutional right to choose whether to have an abortion."

The annual March for Life and the president's statement came on the 37th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision. In Roe and Doe v. Bolton, a companion opinion issued on the same day, the Supreme Court announced rulings that struck down all state bans on abortion and had the effect of legalizing abortion throughout pregnancy for virtually all reasons.

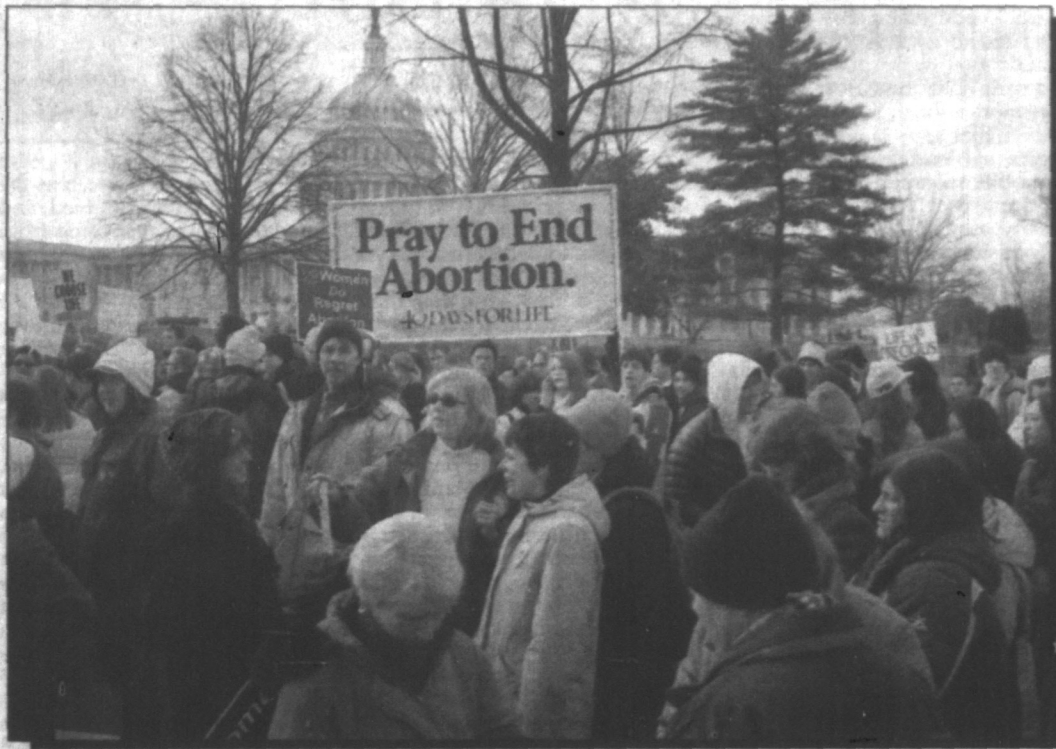
The march, which again was dominated by the presence of students, came only three days after Scott Brown stunningly won a special Senate election in Massachusetts to become the 41st Republican and end the Democrats' filibuster-proof majority in the chamber. In the aftermath, support for an Obama-backed health care reform bill that includes federal funding of abortion appeared in serious jeopardy.

Roe's anniversary also followed a year in which pro-life public opinion increased. A Gallup Poll in May showed 51 percent of adults said they are pro-life, while 42 percent identified themselves as pro-choice. It was the first time a majority of Americans have called themselves pro-life since Gallup began asking the question in 1995. Other surveys also showed the increase in pro-life opinion in the United States.

On the eve of the march, a new poll showed 56 percent of Americans believe abortion is "morally wrong." The breakdown in the survey, performed by Marist College of Poughkeepsie, N.Y., for the Knights of Columbus, of those who believe the practice is "morally wrong" was: 58 percent among 18- to 29-year-olds; 60 percent among 30- to 44-year-olds; 51 percent among 45- to 64-year-olds, and more than 60 percent among those 65 and older.

Land, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, said the "pro-life movement is ascending; it's not descending."

Four days prior to the march, Land spoke at a demonstration outside a nearly completed Planned Parenthood center in Houston that pro-lifers say will be the largest abor-



MARCH FOR LIFE — Tens of thousands of pro-life advocates marched in the U.S. capital on the anniversary of the nationwide legalization of abortion. (BP photo)

tion clinic in the Western Hemisphere.

"Many of the marchers were young people — people born since Roe," Land told Baptist Press. "Many carried signs that said, 'We survived Roe. Roe won't survive us.' And I think that's true."

"And let's remember that only half of that 37-and-younger crowd are eligible yet to vote," he said. "Every year a new group of disproportionately pro-life voters enters the electorate."

"I am more convinced than I have ever been that I will live to see Roe v. Wade dumped on the ash heap of history, along with Dred Scott and Plessy v. Ferguson."

The Supreme Court ruled in 1857 that Dred Scott, an African American slave, was not a U.S. citizen and had no rights. In the 1896 Plessy opinion, the high court upheld racial segregation.

A frequent commentator on abortion in public policy also was positive about the status of the pro-life movement.

"[T]he events of 2009 have clearly demonstrated the [pro-life] movement's resiliency and heft," wrote Michael New, an assistant professor of political science at the University of Alabama, in National Review Online Jan. 22. "Indeed, it is safe to say that pro-lifers have been the most effective opponents of Obamacare. Their efforts on this issue alone show unmistakably that the right-to-life movement is an indispensable part of the center-right coalition."

"Many observers were willing to dismiss abortion opponents just twelve months ago, after the 2008 election," New said. "Instead the pro-life movement rallied and enjoyed a successful year. We made impressive gains in public approval and exerted considerable influence in the debate over health-care reform. All of this bodes well for more substantial policy gains [in] the future."

Unlike last year, Obama did not say in his three-paragraph statement endorsing abortion rights that Americans are united in "our determination" to "reduce the need for abortion."

The president's entire statement said:

"Today we recognize the 37th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision in Roe v. Wade, which affirms every woman's fundamental constitutional right to choose whether to have an abortion, as well as each American's

right to privacy from government intrusion. I have, and continue to, support these constitutional rights."

"I also remain committed to working with people of good will to prevent unintended pregnancies, support pregnant women and families, and strengthen the adoption system."

Today and every day, we must strive to ensure that all women have limitless opportunities to fulfill their dreams."

Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., challenged the president during his speech to participants at the March for Life.

"President Obama," Smith said, according to remarks prepared for the event, "is it really so hard to understand that abortion is violence against children, a pernicious form of child abuse, falsely marketed as choice, a human right, health care and safe? Abortion isn't health care. There is nothing whatsoever benign, healing or nurturing about abortion."

Looking back

10 years ago

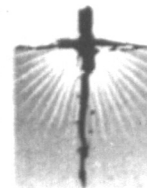
One of the most significant goals of the 1976 Bold Mission Thrust initiative is reached on schedule as the North American Mission Board reaches the level of 5000 active missionaries.

20 years ago

The executive committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board approves the appointment of Annie McWilliams as the first female associate editor of The Baptist Record. McWilliams has been on the staff of the newsjournal of Mississippi Baptists since 1953.

50 years ago

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board plans to receive \$100,000 on Feb. 21 by special offering to completely remodel, equip, and furnish Gulfshore Assembly.



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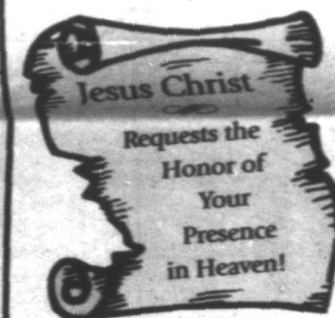
THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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YOU CAN RESPOND
RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.



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Celebrating life during the Super Bowl

Forget just a moment any feelings you may have about Tim Tebow, the Florida Gators — good, bad, or indifferent. (Tebow, for those of you who are indifferent or might be saying “huh?”, was quarterback for the Gators, is a Heisman Trophy winner, the first college player to both rush and pass for 20 touchdowns in a single season, and the son of Southern Baptist missionaries.) There are plenty of fine young Christian men who have shown themselves to be honorable leaders both on and off the field, but Tebow is probably the best known nationally.

Let's focus instead on his family and, specifically, his mother. Tebow was born on August 14, 1987 in Manila in the Philippines, to Bob and Pam Tebow, who were serving as missionaries at the time. While pregnant, Pam suffered a life-threatening infection with a pathogenic amoeba. Because of the drugs used to rouse her from a coma and to treat her dysentery, the fetus experienced a severe placental abruption. Doctors expected a stillbirth and recommended an abortion to protect her life. She carried Tim to term, and both survived.

Without entering into the debate over Tebow's National Football League prospects, let's look instead at the advertisement featuring Pam and Tim which is slated to be aired during the Super Bowl Feb. 7. The ad, produced by Focus on the Family, has created plenty of buzz and even controversy. The Colorado-based organization will only say that the theme

will be “celebrate family, celebrate life.” Sounds pretty positive to me.

Here's where it gets interesting. The National Organization for Women and the Feminist Majority Foundation have joined with the Women's Media Center to ask CBS — which has the broadcast rights to the Super Bowl this year — to kill the ad. A letter from the Women's Media Center states, in part, “By offering one of the most coveted advertising spots of the year to an anti-equality, anti-choice, homophobic organization, CBS is aligning itself with a political stance that will damage its reputation, alienate viewers, and discourage consumers from supporting its shows and advertisers.” Sight unseen, these groups have made this ad — which is to run at least twice Feb. 7, during the pregame and the game itself — an object of scorn, elevating it to the level of a terrorist threat. Nice.

Gary Schneeberger, vice president of media relations for Focus on the Family, said, “We've been working with them [CBS] for months. They've seen the script, they've approved the script and they know full well who Focus on the Family is and what we stand for. They know that some people are ideologically not aligned with some of the things we believe. They know all that, and we have a contract with them. There's been no hurling up to this point and we don't expect there will be.”



Tim and Pat Tebow

The Women's Media Center and their consortium have a Pavlovian response to anything that smacks of pro-life. They are attempting a pre-emptive strike. Not even knowing the content of the ad, and viewing Focus on the Family through some twisted paradigm, their response is one of the oldest and most lame in the book. Their claim is that the ad will be “devisive.” Want to know how to translate that? They are saying, “We are going to accuse you of being devisive because we don't like what you're saying.” Hey, if these organizations are so “pro-choice,” then why the outcry

over an ad that shows one of those choices, i.e., the choice to not terminate a pregnancy?

My snarky response to these people is, “Fine. Go buy your own ad if you don't like this one.” My (hopefully) more reasoned response would be, “Whether you agree with the ideals of Focus on the Family and, indeed, any person or group advocating the sacredness of unborn life, can you not celebrate with the Tebows the joy their family has found in preserving Tim's life? And, perhaps, could you see this as a moral issue rather than a political one?”

Many people just watch the Super Bowl because of the clever commercials. It is going to be refreshing this year that, in the midst of beer and Viagra commercials, we'll witness an ad celebrating family and life. “I know some people won't agree with it,” said Tim Tebow, “but I think they can at least respect that I stand up for what I believe.” You go, Tim.

GUEST OPINION: Providing for the Needs of People, Part 1



By Alan McCullough,
pastor, First Church, Canton

Watching the news of late, one can't miss reports of robust debates, carefully worded press conferences, volatile town hall meetings, petition drives, and grassroots rallies and protests as Americans wrestle with proposed and sometimes enacted policies coming out of Washington, D.C. One side sees an ever-expanding government overreaching its bounds while the other side believes it has a moral obligation to expand government to provide for the needs of the citizenry. Coming on the heels of the \$787 billion economic stimulus package, an unprecedented government intervention into the private sector, one finds elected officials considering health care legislation that potentially will give government more control over medical choices in America. While many debate these issues on pragmatic grounds by asking, “Did it work?” or “Will it work?”, a more fundamental question Americans should be asking is, “What is the role of government in the life of its citizens?” For Christian Americans, we turn to Scripture for guidance.

The Bible doesn't endorse any particular system of government. God's people have lived under dynasties, empires, monarchies and theocracies to name a few. We read of different kinds of rulers: governors, kings, queens, princes, pharaohs, and emperors. The Bible does speak of God creating man, what

God's purposes are on earth, and the innate needs of man. Those blessed to live in America and who humbly understand the price paid to gain and defend our liberties, also realize that democracy best affords mankind the liberty to pursue his potential as an individual created by God and to participate in God's purposes on earth.

God created human beings to be free and government to protect this God-given right. These truths are recorded in our nation's Charters of Freedom. In *The Declaration of Independence* one reads: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.—That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the

governed...” In the *United States Constitution* one reads: “We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”

The *Bill of Rights* was written to further declare what a citizen's freedoms would include and to prevent government from infringing on these rights.

Romans 13:1-7 speaks to how followers of Jesus are to relate to any government they find themselves under. For the stated purpose of this writer, notice in verses 3 and 4, the limited role God gives to government to protect the rights of its citizens:

“For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but

for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.” (NIV)

In the book, “*Love Your God with All Your Mind*” (p.79), J.P. Moreland discusses the difference between a negative right (the belief that a state's duty is to protect from) and a positive right (the belief that a state's duty is to provide for). This distinction gets to the heart of the matter. Is it government's role to “protect from” or to “provide for”? It would appear from Romans 13:3,4 that government is limited to protect the freedom to pursue what is good and to protect its citizens from what is evil. These protections would include the writing and enforcing of sound laws, maintaining a strong military and an ample police force, and ensuring fair courts. It is this writer's opinion that government was not designed to be a “do all/fix all/provide all” for its citizens. Whenever Government goes beyond these basic principles to decide what its citizens need, defines those needs as rights, and views itself as the provider of that need, freedom begins to erode. Once freedom erodes, it is hard to restore.

Ten member Mississippi medical team heads to Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (BP and local reports)—Southern Baptist medical units from Kentucky and Mississippi will leave for Port-Au-Prince Jan. 30, while Florida and South Carolina medical units will fly out Wednesday, Feb. 3.

With 10 members each—including doctors, nurses, chaplains and disaster relief experts—the units will treat as many Haiti earthquake survivors as possible during their five-day stay amid the stench, death and rubble of Port-Au-Prince and the surrounding area.

The 10 member medical team from Mississippi met Jan. 29 at Garaywa Conference Center in Clinton for briefing before leaving Jackson the next morning. According to Don Gann, consultant, Men's Ministry Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, "Haitian Baptist churches have already responded to many of the needs. Florida Baptists have had a long relationship with Haitians. We've made a commitment to be involved for the long term. We'll be there long after the TV cameras are gone." Gann was a member of the initial assessment team described in the last issue of The Baptist Record.

Gann was frank about meeting the needs of the Haitians. "Haiti tends to be a volatile culture," he said, "and so you want to be careful as to how you distribute things to the Haitians. We learned to work together and take cues from the Haitian pastors."

Fritz Wilson and Dennis Wilbanks of the Florida Baptist Convention—who just returned from their first trip to Haiti to assess damage and ministry opportunities—returned Jan. 29, according to Mickey Caison,

adult volunteer mobilization team leader for the North American Mission Board.

"Fritz and Dennis will go back and continue to work with the resources of the Florida Baptist Convention, the Haitian associations and Haitian Baptist churches to give us more much-needed information," Caison said, adding that the four medical teams also will provide additional on-the-ground intelligence.

Medical teams from Arkansas and North Carolina recently completed ministry stints in Haiti and returned home.

"To our state disaster relief teams and to Southern Baptists everywhere, I want to repeat what Fritz has said: 'Other relief agencies in Haiti are running a 100-yard dash; we are running a marathon.' We're going to be in Haiti a long time," Caison said.

"Baptist Global Response, International Mission Board, Southern Baptist Disaster Relief, the Florida Baptist Convention and the states that have been involved in the assessments are doing all we can do to open the door so we can begin to provide the ministry we all want to provide to meet the needs of the Haiti people," Caison added.

Caison said the challenges of responding to the Haiti earthquake are significant—especially in the area of security.

NAMB disaster relief coordinator Bruce Poss, who also just returned from Haiti as a member



SERVING THE GREAT PHYSICIAN—This group of Mississippians departed Jackson Jan. 30 to minister to the health needs of Haitians in the aftermath of the earthquake last month. (Photo by Tony Martin)

of the initial assessment team, said, "We must ensure the safety of the disaster relief volunteers who ultimately go in. As the necessities of life dwindle in Haiti, people who are desperate do desperate things. Although people are there trying to give aid, their security may be threatened."

According to Associated Press reports, roving gangs of young men are breaking into food distribution lines, stealing rice and water from needy Haitians and returning later to offer to re-sell the food at black market prices.

Transportation directly into Port-Au-Prince continues to be an obstacle. The airport still has only one operational runway, which military and private aircraft must use to both land and take off. Commercial airline

flights still are prohibited.

"The only sure way to get into Haiti is to fly into Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic and take the overland trip to Port-Au-Prince, an exhausting 17-hour trip," said Poss, who himself had to negotiate the 160 miles of rocky, uneven roads to get into Port-Au-Prince last week. "On a good day, the roads are not good, full of potholes. If you don't slow down to 30 mph or so, you'll tear up the vehicle. Last week, we had two flat tires due to the roads."

Although Poss said many gas stations were closed, his group—traveling in a four-vehicle caravan—found some open and tried to keep their cars filled up. But the price of gasoline bought from the open stations was \$12 to \$15 a gallon.

"For a volunteer going in to work, the long overland drive just adds to the fatigue," Poss said. "We must get to the point of being able to fly directly into Port-Au-Prince, but there's no assurance of that any time soon."

Another issue is lodging for the volunteers, Poss said. While the assessment team stayed at El Shaddai Orphanage last week, some future volunteers will be lodged at the Florida Baptist Convention's guest house in Port-Au-Prince, which suffered only minimal damage during the original earthquake.

"But the guest house will only accommodate a maximum of 55 people," Poss said. "And it's our only secure place, guarded 24/7. When you leave the guest house compound, you have to be cautious."

The cross-SBC disaster relief team wants to ensure that Southern Baptist aid has a Haitian face, Poss added.

"We want the Haitians to see Haitian Baptists meeting their needs. That's our long-term strategy," Poss said. "That will have the most positive, long-lasting effect on future ministry in Haiti."

Poss said not everything was disheartening on his initial trip to survey the damage in Haiti.

"One of the most encouraging and inspiring things we saw was at El Shaddai Orphanage every night. As many as 200 people would gather for two hours of church every night we were there. You could hear the Haitian orphans—about 40—singing and worshipping in Creole each night. They were excited about singing and really raised the volume."

"If there was any group that had a reason not to sing, it was those orphans, from toddlers to teens," Poss said. "One night I went to sleep with these kids still singing in the background."

A second cross-SBC disaster relief team meeting on Haiti is scheduled for Feb. 11-12 at NAMB's offices in Alpharetta, Ga., Caison noted. He also predicted NAMB will open its Disaster Operations Center during the next week to coordinate state convention response in Haiti.

How You Can help in Haiti – Right Away

Officials are concerned that an unprecedented disaster situation following the earthquake in Haiti is developing. Fears are that as many as 200,000 people may be dead and 3 million people homeless. The response from America will last weeks.

- 900 Southern Baptist Churches in Haiti
- 70 of these churches are in Port au Prince
- Mississippi and Kentucky are the lead states for international response for the month of January. Teams are on stand-by from these states to travel as soon as assessed needs can be known.

Here's what you can do

1. **Pray**
 - o for the people of Haiti who have been devastated
 - o for Haitian government officials who will be coordinating relief
 - o for Haitian Christians as they recover and minister for the injured and displaced
2. **Give**
 - o The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board is accepting donations to fund both the immediate needs and the long-term disaster relief efforts in Haiti.
 - o Checks should be made payable to MBCB, with "Haiti Earthquake Relief" noted on the memo line, and mailed to:
**MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION BOARD
HAITI DISASTER RELIEF
P.O. Box 530
JACKSON, MS 39205**
 - o Fully 100% of the donations (every penny) will be used directly to aid Haiti earthquake victims.
3. **Get Organized to go**
 - o As needs and opportunities are identified
 - o Up-to-date passport
 - o Inoculations up to date
 - o Self-sustained teams living in primitive conditions will be needed

4. For Additional Information

- o Contact the Disaster Relief Ministry of the MS Baptist Convention Board
- o 601-292-3334
- o or e-mail haitidisasterrelief@mbcb.org
- o Please check back often at www.mbcb.org for the latest updates

5. Share Contact Information

- o Many of our Mississippi Baptist Churches already have partnerships and connections with Baptist Churches in Haiti. If your church has a pre-existing connection to a church or ministry (orphanage, hospital, etc.) in Haiti, please share that information with the Disaster Relief Ministry of the MS Baptist Convention Board. 601-292-3334 or e-mail haitidisasterrelief@mbcb.org - THANK YOU



REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

1. **Wheeler Grove Church, Corinth:** Bailey Smith Real Evangelism Conference Feb. 10 - 12. Wed., 6:30 p.m.; Thurs. - Fri., 10 a.m., 1:45 p.m., and 6:30 p.m. Lunch and supper served free of charge. Speakers include Bob Pitman, Junior Hill, Rick Coram, and Jerry Vines; music, Greater Vision, Mike Speck Trio, and the McKameys.

BIBLIOCIPHER

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TMU FNLHMQ NL
AJWWJU WSEG UKANJL;
EGH EZZ WSJ WSNGL
WSEW QEV AJ HJLNUJH
EUJ GMW WM AJ
DMQOEUJH WM NW.
OUMPJUAL JNRSW:
JZJPJG

Clue: A = B

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Third John Eleven

THE CARE AND FEEDING OF A PASTOR

Soon after Christmas I saw an article addressing the problems related to what happens to animals that were given as gifts during Christmas. It happens around a lot of significant holidays that someone is moved to give a friend, a grandchild, or another member of the family a puppy, a cat, a duck, or a cute baby alligator. It seems like a good idea at the time but over time the problems begin to mount as to what you do with this creature that has moved into your living space. Sometimes rather than a harmonious relationship taking place, the newly acquired pet is neglected or even rejected. It may end up sick or maimed, killed or left in a shelter. What started out as such a happy thought ends in indescribable conditions.

At times, it seems that the relationship between pastor and church family can be described the same way. From Baptists, to Methodists, to Presbyterians, and to any and every other kind of church body you want to name, it seems to be a struggle to keep pastor and church relationships healthy. It might be helpful if a book was written on *The Care and Feeding of a Pastor*. I am sure there are a number of books that no doubt fill that niche but they often go unknown, unread, or unheeded. Like the cute little pet acquired for the family, everybody is excited and expectant about the arrival of a new pastor, but after a few days, weeks, or years it does not seem to be the great blessing that everyone thought it was going to be.

Statistics describing the relationship and especially those numbers related to pastors, who are forced out of a job, are hard to come by. Sometimes it is a subtle, unseen pressure that moves a man out and sends him on his way. It is a problem all across our state, all across our convention and, in fact, all across the evangelical world. In this article let me try to address the issue in three areas.

The Reality of the Problem — It is not easy to be the pastor of a church. At times the pressures are great, but even when they are not strong they are unrelenting. There is nowhere that a pastor can go and there is nothing that he can do to totally escape the pressures with which he deals. While doing any task in ministry, you are at the same time struggling with the need of being some other place, tending to some other needs, or preparing for events that are just ahead. If by chance you are not where you need to be all of the time and do not live up to everyone's expectations of you, it is very possible for them to say that you are not living up to your responsibilities. When that takes place, what has become a recurring problem in American churches is for a significant number of mean-spirited individuals to rise up and seem-

ingly unrelentingly carry out a campaign to terminate the often unsuspecting pastor.

Several years ago a national survey on forced terminations revealed that 23% of the pastors who responded said that they had been forced to resign at least once. Forty-three percent of those who were surveyed said that they had been forced to resign because of a faction in the church. There are no perfect pastors and no perfect churches. No two situations are the same and no one is totally at fault, but the reality is that this problem is expanding. It does not honor the Lord and it is not a blessing to the church.

I am certainly aware that there are issues and moral failures that disqualify a man from serving as a pastor and the church may have to deal with that, but what I see far more than those issues are what people use to call personal conflicts. Oftentimes they are just personal dislikes and unrealistic expectations. The pastor who has all of the spiritual gifts, can cram 48 hours into every day, and live with an inexhaustible supply of energy, is a rare bird. Even then he may occasionally get his verb/noun relationship whopper jawed and somebody will get upset with him. The reality is that we do have a problem.

The Spirituality of the Problem — The church/pastor relationship is a spiritual experience. For those of you who may treat calling a pastor and working with your pastor the same as a team calling a coach or a company hiring a CEO, with all due respect to you — you are wrong. A pastor is no better than anyone else is, but in the Kingdom work, the Lord has chosen and, in fact, He says in Revelation 1 that He holds the pastors in His hand. He guides them and through the unique process in our Baptist churches both church and pastor seek God's direction to come together to serve the Lord at a time and a place. If it begins as a spiritual pursuit, it must continue as a spiritual event to seek and follow the Lord together.

It is a dangerous and a damaging thing for a pastor to mislead a congregation. It is equally dangerous and damaging for a church to abuse and disregard the shepherd that God has sent into their midst. I have watched as people have risen up in righteous indignation thinking that they were to lead the charge to

Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

throw a pastor out only to get their way and then watch as the church struggled, stumbled, and sometime never recovered from the events of their actions. You can believe it or not, but God is able to put pastors where He wants them to be and move them somewhere else if He wants them to move.

A final area of consideration about this problem is what we do practically. There are two words that I would suggest that would help immensely in most situations. One is **flexibility**. In any relationship, there is a give and take and there must be a willingness to understand. As with a great marriage it is built not on the fact that two people who think exactly alike and like exactly the same things come together so much as it is two people who are mature enough, love enough, and are committed enough to see the differences in each other, allow the other some space, and learn from the viewpoints that they do not hold.

I have seen pastors whose ministry was over before they ever moved on the field. It was not because they were not good men and not because they did not try, but it was because people, sometimes the right or wrong people, dismissed him because they heard about him before he ever arrived. That is not a pastoral problem so much as it is a lack of maturity problem.

Another word that I would suggest along with **flexibility is forgiveness**. Christians can be some of the most unforgiving people on the planet. We want to be forgiven. We want to

praise and celebrate our Lord for providing us full, free, and absolute forgiveness, but we are not so good when it comes to dishing it out to others. Because we are all deficient and sinful creatures, we all live with the capability of disappointing people around us everyday and in every way. If when people fall, fail, or falter for whatever reason you simply write them off, in time you will find out that you have to write off everybody. The circle of your involvement includes only one grumpy soul.

We can do a world of Kingdom good by devoting ourselves to helping the shepherd that God has sent among us to lead the flock. You be the one who will love the pastor, encourage him, protect him, and thank God for him. The Lord will bless you and honor the flock.

The author can be contacted at jfutral@mbcb.org.

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THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST FOUNDATION

Spring 2010

MBF SCHOLARSHIP MINISTRY

Honoring the Past, Encouraging the Present, Preparing for the Future

The apostle Paul expressed confidence in his Lord when he declared, "And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19). This well-known verse highlights the focus of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation's Scholarship Ministry.

Due to the generosity of many faithful Christian stewards, the Foundation has the privilege of providing needs-based supplemental financial assistance to Mississippi students who are pur-

suing a degree at a Mississippi Baptist college or a Southern Baptist seminary. This edition of Foundation News serves to recognize scholarship recipients for 2009-2010 and to present several newly-established scholarships through which God is meeting needs. In a manner consistent with all other scholarships administered through the Mississippi Baptist Foundation, these funds illustrate the common theme of "Honoring the Past, Encouraging the Present, and Preparing for the Future."

MISSISSIPPI SHEPHERD SERVANT SCHOLARSHIP AND MINISTRY FUND:

Honoring Servants of the Past... Preparing Servants for the Future

Although Paul's affirmation of his faith in the Lord and in the adequacy of God's provision was presented initially to the church at Philippi, Christians have experienced the truth of this unwavering expression of trust throughout history. Such faith has been demonstrated in the life and ministry of countless numbers of faithful servants of God who, for generations upon generations, shepherded their flocks during an era when little thought was given and few plans were made regarding adequate financial resources for retirement. Today, many retired ministers or their widows often find themselves with "too much month at the end of the check" in terms of some basic needs such as utilities.

Such faith also may be recognized in a tangible manner as God-called men and women pursue academic and ministerial training in response to God's invitation to serve Him through a lifetime of vocational ministry. Providing financial assistance for students who are pursuing theological education is one of the most meaningful areas of ministry in which the Mississippi Baptist Foundation is engaged. Unfortunately, the availability of substantial scholarship funds has not always kept pace with the number of students that apply for an

MBF scholarship. Often this reality surfaces most noticeably with seminary students who will be the shepherd servants of the future.

Against the backdrop of meeting financial needs and the desire to join God where he is working, the Board of Trustees of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation established the "Mississippi Shepherd Servant Scholarship and Ministry Fund." The stated purpose of this fund is two-fold. First, the fund is designed to provide scholarship awards for students who are pursuing a graduate degree at a Southern Baptist seminary. Second, retired Mississippi Baptist ministers or their widows will receive financial benefit from this fund through the Church Retirement and Retiree Benevolence Committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Beyond the expressed purposes of this new fund, the "Mississippi Shepherd Servant Scholarship and Ministry Fund" promotes an

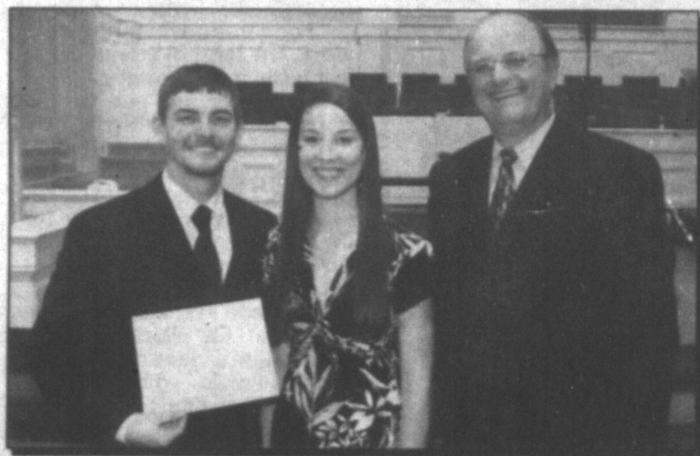


additional goal. While monies from several undesignated gifts have provided the initial corpus, this fund also provides the opportunity for individuals and churches to make memorial gifts in honor and memory of deceased ministers. Each year, a large number of our shepherd servants "retire" to their mansion in Glory. And while these faithful ministers are remembered each year during a special memorial service when the Mississippi Baptist Convention convenes in the Fall, the "Mississippi Shepherd Servant Scholarship

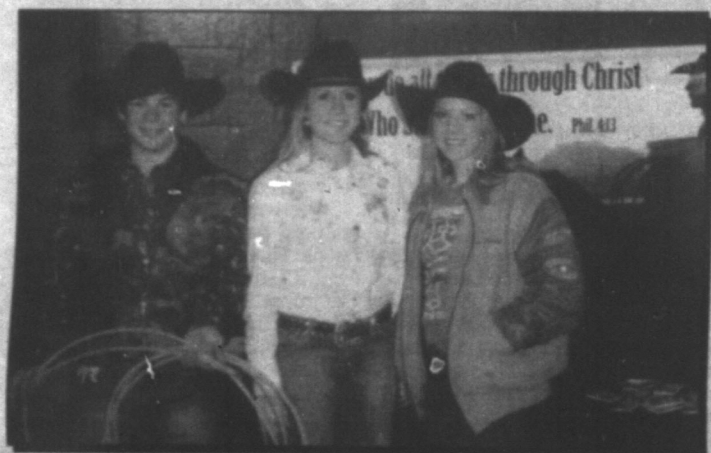
and Ministry Fund" provides further opportunities to honor these deceased loved ones and shepherd servants.

Gifts to the "Mississippi Shepherd Servant Scholarship and Ministry Fund" may be made through the Mississippi Baptist Foundation, Post Office Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. In this manner, shepherd servants of the past will be honored and shepherd servants of the future will be encouraged.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. First Church, Vicksburg



2. Cooke, Overby, and Hamilton



3. Central Church, Byram



4. County Line Church, Union

1. First Church, Vicksburg, ordained Jerry Bourne as deacon Jan. 10. Shown are Bourne, his wife, Michelle and pastor Matt Buckles.

2. The Evangelism Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board helped facilitate an outreach to the Mississippi High School Rodeo at Fordice Arena, Jackson, Dec. 27-31. Len Cook, J.C. Kitaig, and Ricky Thaggard helped organize a Cowboy Church, during which Chance Smart, a Nationals Finals Rodeo qualifier shared his testimony. Approximately 450 attended the church Sunday afternoon. Shown are participants Jordan Cooke, Lexi Overby, and Marshall Hamilton.

3. Central Church, Byram, participated in a Christmas project of filling and mailing 40 Christmas stockings to Iraq for PFC Brandon Aultman and the other soldiers in his unit. Art Land, pastor. Shown are the participants.

4. The youth of County Line Church, Union, all taught Sunday School classes and led the morning worship service Jan. 24. Shown are the participants.

5. Parkway Church, Tupelo, ordained three men as deacons Jan. 24. Shown are James Underwood, Norman Hays, Russell Jordan, and pastor Paul Brashier.

6. Troy First Church, Pototoc, recently ordained David McGehee and Lance Pickens to the ministry. McGehee serves as minister of music; Pickens serves as youth minister. Shown are McGehee, pastor Greg Herndon, and Pickens.

7. Antioch Church, Union, will host a Winter Bible Study Feb. 4 - 6, 6:30 p.m. The study is on the book of Joshua. Dan Lanier, leader.

8. Morgan City Church, Morgan City, ordained Matthew Morgan to the gospel ministry Dec. 6, 2009. Shown are David Hodges, Duke Kimbrough, Morgan, Wayne Nichols, and Sid Woodard.

9. The CIA's of Bethel Church, Smith County, carried supplies to the Smith County Baptist food pantry. Shown are Kaylee Belle Goodson, Samantha Goodson, Jacob McGriff, Shanna Goodson, and Abby McGriff.



5. Parkway Church, Tupelo



6. Troy First Church, Pontotoc



8. Morgan City Church, Morgan City



9. Bethel Church, Smith Co.

2009-2010 Scholarship Recipients

Encouraging the Present... Preparing for the Future



Blue Mountain College

Adams, Jeffrey	Hickory Flat
Baker, John	Hickory Flat
Baker, Rebekah	Bruce
Bennet, Rebekah	Independence
Bennett, Whitney	Coldwater
Berryhill, Haley	New Albany
Bishop, Michael	Ackerman
Brady, Marisa	Ripley
Cisco, Terrance	Slayden
Clark, Amie	N. Carrollton
Coleman, Jamie	Greenwood
Conely, Rebecca	Ripley
Cooper, Jonathan	Rienzi
Cox, Sarah	Blue Mountain
Deaton, Stephen	Mooreville
Edwards, Cole	Okolona
Faulkner, JoAnna	Tupelo
Greer, Jonathan	Meridian
Hall, Corey	New Albany
Harbor, Andrew	Corinth
Harrell, Deanna	Morton
Haulcomb, Jerry	Pontotoc
Haynes, Robert	Corinth
Hill, Brad	Ripley
Howell, Ryan	Booneville
Huckaby, Kevin	Pontotoc
Jackson, Michelle	Baldwyn
Jaggars, Dixilee	Saltillo
King, Matthew	Water Valley
Leathers, Emily	Pickens
Magers, Thomas	Nettleton
Matthews, Barry	Pontotoc
McClure, Chris	Ackerman
McGee, Lauren	Crystal Springs
Miles, Katie	Corinth
Miller, Emily	Pontotoc
Otto, Justin	Senatobia
Reeder, Matthew	Thaxton
Russell, Christian	Pontotoc
Scott, Heather	Etta
Sharp, Christy	Tupelo
Sizemore, Hanna	New Albany
Sterling, Tremaine	Blue Mountain
Strachan, Logan	Walnut
Taylor, Haley	New Albany
White, Rebecca	New Albany
White, Stephanie	Starkville
Whitt, Matthew	Mooreville
Wilson, Audrey	Independence



William Carey University

Bennett, Mary	Kokomo
Booth, Tanya	Waveland
Bowman, Suzanne	Columbia
Fox, Ashlie	Magee
Gillie, Samuel	Janice
Harrison, Amanda	Hattiesburg
Harrison, Chris	Union
Jordan, Erica	Brookhaven
Lawrence, Kayla	Purvis
Layton, Courtney	Runnelstown
Layton, Heather	Collins
Layton, Lori	Runnelstown
McMillen, Ashley	Amory
Nightengale, Robin	Poplarville
Odom, Daniel	Waynesboro
Parsons, William	Brandon
Pippen, Jeremy	Laurel
Roberts, Amanda	Columbia
Roberts, Tiffany	Raleigh
Sanguinetti, James	Hattiesburg
Saucier, Kayla	Petal
Stewart, Allison	Laurel
Taylor, Melanie	Laurel
Thompson, Joshua	Hattiesburg
Tolar, Peyton	Pascagoula
Toomey, Ashley	Waveland
Urruchi-Soto, Pavel	Hattiesburg
Warren, Kyle	Soeo
Webb, Kimberly	Holly Springs
West, Amanda	Laurel
Williams, Kaci	Moss Point



Mississippi College

Adams, Zachary	Stringer
Aker, Allison	Brookhaven
Allen, Bethany	Clarksdale

Anderton, Bailey	Vicksburg
Bailey, Brett	Ellisville
Ball, Mamye	Raymond
Barefoot, Tiffany	Sumrall
Barker, Rebecca	Wesson
Barnhardt, Kristen	Clinton
Beasley, Anna	Crystal Springs
Bennett, Jamie	Indianola
Bennett, Justin	Picayune
Benson, Jessica	Laurel
Bloomfield, Ann-Carter	Vancleave
Bounds, Cameron	Raymond
Brashier, Kelley	Tupelo
Brown, Anna	Brandon
Bryant, Shannon	Madison
Cade, Kelsey	Macon
Caldwell, Stephanie	Petal
Campbell, Katherine	Clinton
Cannon, Presley	Leesburg
Cirlot, Audrie	Moss Point
Clift, Tyler	Star
Cook, Allison	Starkville
Cooper, Mark	Quitman
Corder, Emily	Madison
Covey, Gabrielle	Richland
Crane, Ashley	Quitman
Crowder, Richard	Madison
Cummings, Laura	Richland
Cupstid, Delia	Pearl
Davidson, Cameron	Columbus
Davis, Jeana	Hurley
Dobbs, Camea	Brandon
Dodd, Whitney	Picayune
Downing, John	Pontotoc
Drake, Jessica	Pearl
Edwards, Tyler	Madison
Fondren, Ellen	Mathiston
Gardner, Luke	Smithville
Gilreath, Victoria	Gulfport
Gladney, Jennifer	Madison
Gladney, Melanie	Madison
Godfrey, Rebecca	Florence
Gonzalez, Constantino	Biloxi
Goyrich, Rebecca	Tupelo
Graham, Callie	Sumrall
Graves, Justin	Laurel
Graves, Laura	Leland
Gray, John	Hernando
Greer, Brandon	Crystal Springs
Griffin, Dann	Brandon
Griffin, Hannah	Pearl
Hammack, Erin	Madison
Hancock, Kyle	Macon
Hardin, Ashli	Madison
Hardin, Britni	Madison
Harrell, Kristen	Forest
Harris, Joyce	Quitman
Haynes, Erin	Petal
Hays, Anna	Tutwiler
Hicks, Andrew	Clinton
Hicks, Corey	Byram
Hiers, Kara	Vancleave
Hollis, Elizabeth	Pearl
Holloway, Brandon	Clinton
Howard, Kelcie	Greenville
Howard, Margaret	Meadville
Howard, Matthew	Meadville
Hudson, Rachel	Oxford
Hurt, Laura	Natchez
Jackson, Reagan	Philadelphia
Jacobson, Lauren	Madison
Jeffcoat, Cassandra	Crystal Springs
Jeffcoat, Raymond	Florence
Johnson, Audra	Holcomb
Jolly, Meredith	Indianola
Keen, Laney	Louisville
King, Christopher	Pearl
King, Joshua	Brandon
Koestler, Alice	Vicksburg
Lake, Lindsey	Columbus
Langworthy, Jordan	Clinton
Lashley, Kimberly	Ocean Springs
LeSource, Amber	Madison
Lofland, Myles	Madison
Luckey, Lauren	Clinton
Lusk, Valarie	Summit
Marler, Sarah	Carthage
May, Melissa	Brandon
May, Rebecca	Madison
McIntyre, Christine	Ocean Springs
McKay, Jessi	Morton
Meece, Matthew	Long Beach

Murphy, Brian	Columbus
Murphy, Laura	Columbus
Oates, Jeff	Clinton
Palich, Emily	Brandon
Pannell, William	Pontotoc
Parrella, Ashley	Grenada
Penton, Christopher	Pascagoula
Phillipson, Timothy	Morton
Pinson, Paige	Madison
Pope, Jesse	Flowood
Ramey, Olivia	Tupelo
Rayborn, Jerrod	Brookhaven
Robertson, Sara	Ocean Springs
Rucker, Rachel	Brandon
Sanders, Zachary	Star
Schilling, Laura	Poplarville
Simpson, Ethan	Coldwater
Singletary, Beverley	Crystal Springs
Sisson, Kolby	Philadelphia
Smith, Azia	Brandon
Smith, Britta	Brandon
Smith, Micah	Brandon
Southerland, Hannah	Lorman
Stanley, Seth	Braxton
Stevens, Hamilton	Benton
Sturniolo, Amanda	Greenwood
Sutherland, M. Taylor	Richland
Tarver, Emily	Greenville
Teasley, Heather	Crystal Springs
Tillman, Emily	Philadelphia
Tisdale, Donald	Saucier
Touchstone, Jantsen	Eddiceton
Turner, Joshua	Brandon
Valentine, Kristen	Florence
Walker, Caitlin	Learned
Wallace, Jana	Meadville
Warren, Jacan	Leakesville
West, Brenna	Brandon
White, Jeremy	Vicksburg
Williamson, Damon	Brookhaven
Wilson, Kristen	Meadville
Wilson, Kyle	Palm Bay
Windham, Hannah	Florence
Winstead, Emily	Madison
Woods, Haley	Greenwood
Woodward, Ashton	Madison
Young, Barbara	Tylertown



Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

Alexander, Matthew	Brookhaven
Benson, Rebecca	Laurel
Bryant, Jonathan	Woodland
Coleman, Jonathan	Meridian
Crouch, Daniel	Meridian
Fedele, Sarah	Laurel
Hammond, Andy	Aberdeen
Hill, Samuel	Ripley
Hughes, Nicholas	Ripley
Kendrick, Robert	Laurel
Kinsey, Alan	Sumrall
Loyd, Josh	Nesbit
Loyd, Melinda	Senatobia
Mangum, Steven	Moselle
Robbins, Bethany	Clinton
Roberts, Samantha	Laurel
Truhett, Jillian	Gulfport
Watts, Jessica	Southaven
Williams, Chris	Oxford



Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

Brady, Courtney	Vancleave
King, Katherine	Oxford
Lindsey, Mark	Brandon
Russell, Casey	Lamar
Stewart, Joseph	Columbus



Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Blackwell, Ben	Hattiesburg
Bunn, Jason	Gulfport
Edwards, Jill	Quitman
Fortenberry, Jon	Oxford
Jimenez, Kleber	Forest

Johnson, Paul	Gulfport
Kitchens, Jonathan	Laurel
Lang, Fletcher	Cleveland
Lucius, Andrew	Brandon



New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Bailey, Jonathan	Long Beach
Baker, Michael	Hickory Flat
Barnes, Patrick	Columbia
Barnett, James	Biloxi
Beeland, Heather	Madison
Beville, Kristopher	Southaven
Bracy, Jacqueline	Madison
Bradford, James	Waynesboro
Britt, Jason	Brookhaven
Brooks, Joseph	Batesville
Bryant, Larry	New Albany
Burnell, Tyler	Crystal Springs
Cook, Anna	Hurley
Crozier II, Thomas	Pearl
Culhum, Brandon	Oxford
Cummings, Ricky	Hattiesburg
Doss, Michael	Hattiesburg
Eaton, James	Sparta
Elliott, Donald	Byram
Ferguson, Heath	Wesson
Freeman, Talmadge	Meridian
Freemy, Timothy	Jackson
Garland, Richard Keith	Clinton
Givens, Bonnie	Hattiesburg
Hagar, Josh	Clinton
Herndon, Daniel	Picayune
Hinson, Kendra	Natchez
Hodges, Dane	Meadville
Jackson, James	Olive Branch
Johnson, Brandy	Starkville
Johnson, Kelby	Laurel
Johnson, Richard	Crystal Springs
Jones, Molly	Laurel
Jordan, Joseph	Terry
Joy, Mason	Cleveland
Kelly, William-Brandon	Gulfport
Lawler, Kimberly	Aberdeen
Lawrence, Timothy	Brookhaven
Lee, Brandon	Purvis
Manning, Edward	Pearl
Marsh, James	Tylertown
McDonald, Stephen	Hattiesburg
McKenzie, Mauricka	Clinton
Moorman, Fletcher	Grenada
Montero, Blanca	Biloxi
Mores, William	Richland
Morgan, Timothy	Petal
Pace, Marshall	Picayune
Palmer, Clay	Petal
Painter, Gene	West Point
Price, Chester	Brookhaven
Pritchett, Carianne	Terry
Pritchett, James	Biloxi
Rikard, Robert	Cascilla
Robey, Kenneth	Tupelo
Rule, Caroline	Madison
Rushing, Dori	Magnolia
Rushing, Johnnie	Magnolia
Seal, Kenneth	Hattiesburg
Sellers, Lindsey	Poplarville
South, Paul	Biloxi
Stephens, Bradley	Sumrall
Taylor, Ashley	Starkville
Tew, Kenneth	Meridian
Tew, Kristen	Forest
Thompkins, Richard	Hattiesburg
Thompson, Ashton	Brandon
Thompson, Lloyd	Columbia
Vardanna, Talmadge	Morton
Walker, Brandy	Hattiesburg
Westmoreland, Kimberly	Newhebron
Whitaker, Warren	Woodville
Wilbanks, Michael	Walnut
Williamson, Britt	Hattiesburg
Wright, Kenneth	Brandon
Zinc, Louis	Bay St. Louis



Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

Cupit, Jeffrey	Natchez
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Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary

Norman, Shan	Liberty
Wenzel, Taryn	Long Beach

Margie McCaffrey Smith Memorial Scholarship Fund



MARGIE SMITH

Born on February 4, 1921, Margie McCaffrey grew up and was educated in the small rural town of Bogue Chitto, MS. Shortly after graduation, she married Vernon W. Smith on July 31, 1939 and the newlyweds moved to Gulfport where Mr. Vernon (as some folks referred to him) was a federal employee working for the U.S. Government.

When Vernon retired in 1969, the couple returned to Lincoln County and the family farm in Bogue Chitto. Vernon and Margie joined the Arlington Baptist Church where they served together. Following Mr. Vernon's death in June, 1976, Margie lived alone on the farm and she continued her faithful service to the Lord through Arlington Baptist Church.

Margie didn't draw attention to herself. Rather, Margie approached life with the goal of being a blessing to someone else each and every day as she sought to be a source of encouragement to others. With a quiet and humble voice, Margie often told various worship leaders – whether the choir members, the minister of music, the Sunday school director, or the pastor – how much she enjoyed and appreciated their willing service to the Lord through Arlington

Baptist Church. Margie's kind and gentle spirit captured the heart and respect of everyone who knew her.

Through her Last Will and Testament, Margie named the Arlington Baptist Church as the beneficiary of her estate. When the Lord called Margie to "higher service" with Him on March 26, 2006, the church received the blessings of Margie's generous stewardship and careful planning. With the goal of honoring Margie's love for her Lord and for His people, the Arlington Baptist Church established the "Margie M. Smith Memorial Scholarship Trust Fund" through the Mississippi Baptist Foundation. While the emphasis of this relationship is students from Arlington Baptist Church, the primary focus is the hope that many lives will continue to be touched by the humble spirit and generosity of Margie McCaffrey Smith.



ARLINGTON BAPTIST
CHURCH

Jack Gregory Memorial Scholarship Fund

As a young man, Dr. Jack Gregory accepted God's invitation to spend his life in pastoral ministry within the local church setting. Following graduation from college and seminary, Jack and his wife Betty faithfully served several congregations in North and South Carolina prior to coming to Pontotoc, MS as the pastor of the West Heights Baptist Church.

The far-reaching and eternal impact of Dr. Gregory's ministry is immeasurable as numerous young men surrendered to vocational ministry under his leadership. Jack's influence on future ministers was particularly evident during his nine-year pastorate at West Heights Baptist Church where thirteen men answered God's call to ministry.

Throughout his fifty-one years of full-time ministry, numerous churches in the Carolinas, Mississippi (including FBC Poplarville and Carey Chapel Baptist Church in Mt. Pleasant), and Tennessee received the blessings of Jack's love for the Lord and his love for people. Although officially



JACK AND BETTY GREGORY

retiring in February 1999, Jack and Betty continued to illustrate the reality that "there is no retirement in the Christian life...only a new place of service." For Dr. Gregory, the new place of service initially meant as a part-time preacher at the Thomastown Baptist Church near Carthage and as a faithful member of the Broadmoor Baptist Church in Madison.

When Jack entered his eternal place of service in October 2006, Betty honored the memory and ministry of her husband by establishing the "Jack Gregory Memorial Scholarship Fund." With special emphasis on the West Heights Baptist Church in Pontotoc, this fund is designed to offer financial assistance to students who are pursuing ministry training for a church-related vocation through a Baptist college in Mississippi or a Southern Baptist seminary. Thus, the "Jack Gregory Memorial Scholarship Fund" honors a lifetime of ministry while offering encouragement to students as they prepare for their own lifetime of ministry.

Southern Baptist medical teams lead Haiti response

By Barbara Denman

HIALEAH, Fla. (BP)—The joint Southern Baptist response to the Jan. 12 Haiti earthquake will launch in the coming week with four "strategically-selected" medical teams, leaders of the Southern Baptist Disaster Relief Network decided Jan. 26 at the Florida Urban Impact Center in Hialeah, Fla.

Plans to respond to Haiti's urgent, intermediate and long-term needs were addressed at the meeting by assessment teams that had just returned from the quake-ravaged nation along with representatives from the Florida Baptist Convention, North American Mission Board, International Mission Board, Baptist Global Response and other Southern Baptist disaster relief representatives.

The group wrestled with logistical arrangements and how to send mission teams and respond to needs in a country where transportation and in-country support for teams is extremely difficult. Access to airports and shipping docks remains highly restricted, the teams reported.

"At this point, all we can sleep safely in Prince-au-Prince is 55," said Cecil Seagle, director of the Florida Baptist Convention's mission division.

The group decided the next step will be to send four "strategically-selected" medical teams through the Dominican Republic to Haiti

next week along with two representatives from the Florida convention who will continue to make arrangements for trained disaster relief teams to travel in and out of the country.

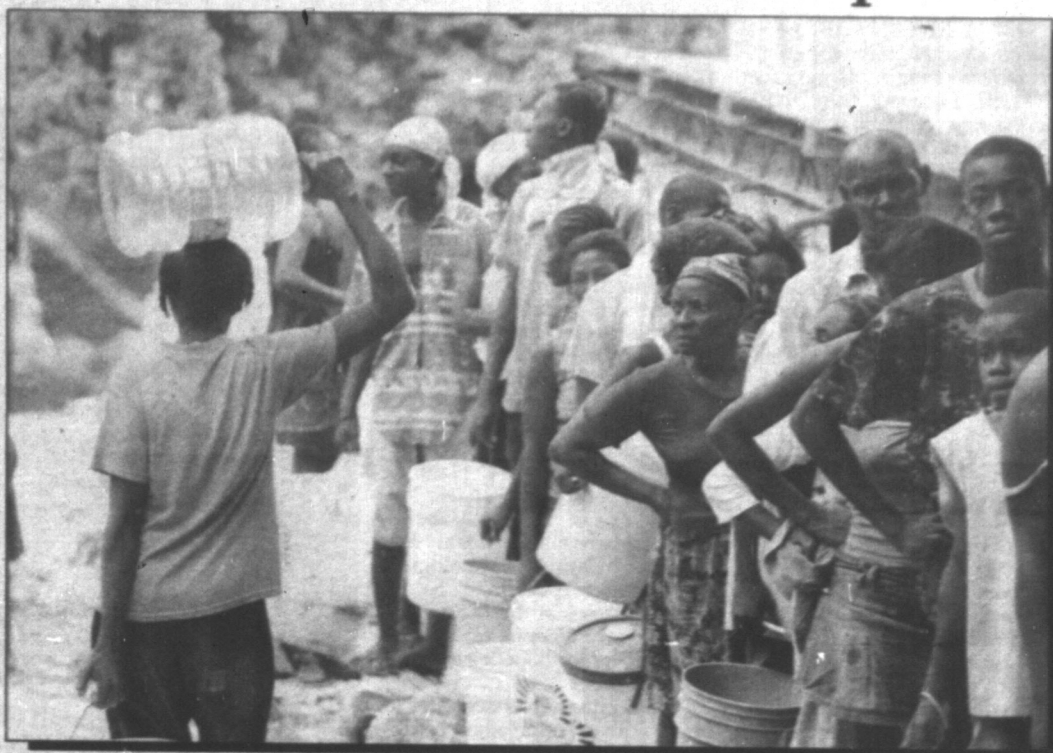
Another meeting to discuss the logistics of getting additional response teams into Haiti will be held in Atlanta Feb. 11-12, the group decided.

"Once we get the mechanisms in place, we will have numbers of teams in there, week in and week out," said Mickey Caison, who directs disaster relief coordination for the North American Mission Board.

"One of the things I am very excited about is that the four entities came together around Southern Baptist disaster relief to develop plans to respond to the disaster in Haiti," Caison added. "I believe God is going to do something real good through all of us working together in Haiti. Through it, all our efforts will be touching lives, changing lives and giving hope. Our purpose is to carry the message of hope found in Jesus Christ."

The group acknowledged that Southern Baptists are passionate about responding to the immediate needs in Haiti and urged patience as they try to solve logistical nightmares.

The disaster relief workers also sought to communicate to Southern Baptists that the response will be long-term in helping Haitians rebuild their lives and communities.



WATER A DIRE NEED - Haitians line up with buckets to get clean water, something that has been very scarce and expensive. (BP photo)

In the meantime, churches can minister to Haitians in their own communities and pray for people in Haiti who are afraid to return to the homes that are still standing because of the danger posed by aftershocks.

In a project led by Florida Baptists, "Buckets of Hope"

will be purchased and assembled for Haitian families, providing five-gallon buckets packed with rice, cooking oil, black beans, flour, sugar, spaghetti noodles and peanut butter. Even after Haitians use the supplies, the bucket can serve multiple uses for a family.

"Other relief agencies in Haiti are running a 100-yard dash; we are running a marathon," said Fritz Wilson, disaster relief director for the Florida Baptist Convention.

Barbara Denman is director of communications for the Florida Baptist Convention (www.flbaptist.org).

COLLEGE NEWS



1. Jones

1. Carol Jones, associate professor of psychology and director of psychology on the William Carey University Tradition campus since 1994, was elected president-elect of the American Association of State Counseling Board (AASCB). The AASCB is the national organization of state counseling boards representing the 50 states,

the District of Columbia, Guam, and Puerto Rico. Jones will serve as president-elect in 2010 and begin her term in July 2011.

2. Music therapy and education major Katelyn Farris of Petal was crowned Miss William Carey University 2010 and will compete in the Miss Mississippi Pageant to be held in July in Vicksburg.

Farris, whose platform promotes the benefits of music therapy for individuals with mental disabilities, is a member of the music fraternity Delta Omicron, the social sorority Gamma Chi, and the Student Music Therapy Organization. Her community service includes work at Twin Oaks Adult Daycare Center and the Baddour Center. She performed Giacomo Puccini's "O mio babbino caro" during the talent category. Farris is the daughter of William and Joy Farris of Petal.

First runner up is Callie



2. Cory, Merrill, Farris, Williams, and Moore

Merrill, an elementary education major from Pascagoula. Second runner up is Kayla Croy, a business and marketing major from Wiggins. Third runner up is Amanda Williams, a theatre major from Picayune. Fourth runner up is Maggie Moore, an education major from Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Amber Mauldin, a theatre major from Columbia, received the Virginia Scott

Spirit Award. Voted on by the other contestants, this award honors former WCU pageant director Virginia Scott who served from 1972 until 1985. During Covington's tenure three Carey women were crowned Miss Mississippi with one, Wanda Geddie, going to Miss America. This award was instituted in 2004 by current pageant director Allison Chestnut.

Senior biology major Jeanne Disotell of Marrero, La. was second runner up in the Miss Pine Belt Pageant.

3. Featuring the choir of Macedonia M.B. Church of Corinth, Blue Mountain College will present "How Sweet the Sound," a celebration of Black History Month at 6 p.m. Feb. 8. BMC students and alumni from throughout Northeast Mississippi will also take part in the annual public celebration that will be held in the Berry Auditorium inside Lowrey Administration Building. "This is a great opportunity for the Blue Mountain community to experience the wonderful spirit of African-American church music," said Dr. Barbara Holland, chair of the BMC Fine Arts and Lecture Committee. "It's also important for our student body to be able to share this very significant program with the entire region."

Frank and Sandra Gunn Scholarship Fund: Honoring Your Interim

For over five decades, Frank and Sandra Gunn have been a blessing to multitudes of Mississippi Baptists through their leadership within churches, institutions, and agencies. Dr Gunn has held pastorates in Mississippi including a lengthy ministry at First Baptist Church of Biloxi. In addition, Dr. Gunn has served as a trustee for Mississippi College, on various committees of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and as president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

While Mrs. Gunn has played a special ministry role alongside her husband, she too has held important positions of leadership among Mississippi Baptists including her role as an officer for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Whenever and wherever Mississippi Baptists are gathering - whether a church revival, a regional rally, a Convention-wide annual meeting, or a host of other opportunities - the Gunns are usually counted among the participants. Quite often such occasions find Frank and Sandra offering encouragement and exhortation to those assembled through their ministries of preaching and teaching.

Since his retirement from First Baptist Church of Biloxi, Dr. Gunn has served numerous churches as interim pastor. Though serving on an interim basis, Dr. Gunn exhibits the same energy in preaching, commitment to God's purpose, and gentle spirit toward people that have been his pattern across his many years of ministry.



FRANK AND SANDRA GUNN



The congregation of Calvary Baptist Church in Waynesboro, MS was a recent recipient of Dr. Gunn's faithful leadership. During his tenure as interim pastor, Dr. Gunn's biblical preaching and wise counsel helped prepare the church for the arrival of their new pastor, Whit Lewis.

Desiring to express their appreciation for Dr. and Mrs. Gunn in a unique manner, the membership of Calvary Baptist Church consulted their new



REV. WHIT LEWIS
AND WIFE LEANNE
PASTOR
CALVARY BC,
WAYNESBORO

pastor for his suggestions. Whit placed a phone call to Barry Corbett - pastor of the First Baptist Church in Kosciusko - a friend and mentor with whom Whit had served earlier in his ministry. Dr. Corbett suggested that Whit call the Mississippi Baptist Foundation. When Whit contacted Daniel Hall at the Foundation office, he learned that Dr. Gunn has been both a strong advocate for the ministry of the MBF and a life-long supporter of Mississippi College. In God's providence, this sequence of calls and conversations led to the idea that Calvary Baptist Church could establish a scholarship fund through the Mississippi Baptist Foundation that benefits students attending Mississippi College. At a farewell reception for the Gunns, the church honored Dr. and Mrs. Gunn through the establishment of the "Frank and Sandra Gunn Scholarship Fund."



BARRY CORBETT
PASTOR
FBC,
KOSCIUSKO

Not only did Calvary Baptist Church honor their interim, but they also made provision to encourage future generations of young people. Please contact the Mississippi Baptist Foundation for more information about honoring the past and encouraging the future through a scholarship or other endowed fund through the Foundation.



CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH



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BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Are You in the Right Mind?

Romans 8:5-8; 1 Corinthians 2:12-16; 2 Corinthians 4:3-4

By Barbara Brown

"Let the mind of the Master be the master of your mind."
(Anonymous)

The phrase "the mind of Christ" is used often these days in Christian circles. It sounds like a great thing to have — perhaps even a lofty goal to set for oneself, but an impossible one to attain on our own. The good news today is that, although we cannot know all the secrets of God, we can have the mind of Christ.

The battle for the mind of Christ begins

The battle for the mind of Christ is a spiritual one that began in Eden and will continue until Jesus returns. It is a battle fought in the hearts and minds of all people. For some, the battle ends as a person resigns himself to following

the bent of his own human nature and selfish desires. For others, the battle ends in spiritual victory as by faith Christ is allowed to become the Lord of life.

Paul contrasts the characteristics of both in Romans 8. **The mind of the lost man...**

- "is set on what the nature desires." (v.5) These hearts and minds are wrapped up in greed, pleasure-seeking, and selfish ambition. They determine ethical issues based on their own feelings, thoughts, knowledge, and personal standards for right and wrong. Paul says in 2 Corinthians 4:3-4 that Satan has blinded or veiled the minds of unbelievers. That veil could well be called "This is what I want!" and only the blood of Christ can rend it.



Brown

- "is death." (v.6) The mind of a lost man may be one who thinks good thoughts and does good things. He may enjoy religious activities and may be very ethical, but all the good he thinks and does will not change the fact that his life ends in death.

- "is hostile to God." (v.7) There is no desire to submit to the authority of the one true God in the heart and mind of the lost man. Culture is an outplaying of the sinful mind as it is centered on selfish desires, not things of God. In other words, "the man without the Spirit does not accept things that come from the Spirit..."

(1 Corinthians 2:14) His lost mind just won't let him.

- "cannot please God." (v.8) The lost man can do many great things but, in the end, none of his deeds will be acceptable to the Lord.

Conversely, the mind of the believer....

- "is set on what the Spirit desires." (v.5) Although the believer may battle flesh as long as he lives on earth, his heart and mind are set to be controlled by the desires of God.

- "is life and peace." (v.6) The life of the believer is at rest as he trusts in the relationship he enjoys with the Lord through the shed blood of Christ.

- "is not controlled by the sinful nature but by the Spirit." (v.9) It is not the matter of sin that separates the believer from the unbeliever; it's the matter of Lordship. It's the answer to the question, "Who will control my heart and mind?" In order to have the "right mind," the mind of Christ, one must choose to respond to the call of Jesus on his life to be saved.

Strengthening the mind of Christ

This new mind that God creates in us is nurtured as we read and meditate on God's Word, as we spend time on our knees in prayer, as we join other believers in worship, and

as we serve Him in all areas of our lives. It is further strengthened as we avoid the things that work against the Spirit and seek "...to be transformed by the renewing of our minds." (Romans 12:2)

Reflecting the mind of Christ

"The mark of the mind of Christ is that we will behave as Jesus did. In the midst of this present world we will be compassionate when others are severe; we will be severe when others are tolerant; we will be kind to the ugly, the poor, the obscure, the people of no ability or authority, but will be frank with the rich and the powerful and the mighty. That is the mind of Christ." (Ray Steadman's sermon, "The Mind of Christ")

Have you been born again? Are you feeding the Spirit? Does the way you live reflect the presence of the Spirit? Then you can know you are in the right mind — the mind of Christ!

Brown is children's minister, Colonial Heights Church, Ridgeland.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

When your Priorities are Challenged

Mark 12:13-17, 28-34

By Malcolm Woody

Those in authority query Jesus relentlessly. After His welcome in Jerusalem, the entire city is abuzz with anticipation. Some say the Messiah is finally here. Others claim a great prophet and teacher is in their midst. The crowds are daunting, pressing in waves to hear Him, always wanting more. The Herodians and Pharisees gather in the same crowd and contemplate their plots to entrap Him. Their disdain for Him is not speculative. This has been evident nearly from the beginning.

In a concocted tone a voice emits a question, "Teacher, we know You are truthful and defer to no one, for You don't show partiality, but teach the way of God in truth. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" (Mk 12:14 HCSB). Jesus, not relenting

to their feigned concern for truth, asks for a coin.

As they search for a coin to present, you realize the question is a devious trap. Furthermore, they ask for a "yes" or "no" answer to one of the most complicated questions on the day. The question summons Jesus to the precipice of a political tempest. If Jesus says "yes", He merely confirms the inscription, claiming Caesar as nothing short of deity, therefore, committing blasphemy. Jesus would lose all influence among the Jews. If He says "no", He could immediately be arrested by the minions of Rome and brought before the court of the Procurator. Either way, Jesus is eliminated to the delight of his enemies.

Taking the coin, Jesus asks, "Whose picture and title are stamped on it?" (Mk 12:16 NLT)



Woody

Everyone knows whose picture and title are on all Roman coins, especially those displaying patronizing obsequious intentions. As the crowd is hushed anxiously awaiting an answer someone states the obvious. The image and inscription belong to Caesar.

In due time, Jesus answers, "Render unto Caesar what is Caesar's, and unto God the things that are God's." (Mk 12:17 KJV) The simple answer is true brilliance. The implication is apparent. The coin belongs to Caesar and the word "render" means to give back not just give. The adversaries can say nothing against this logic and the Romans have no case against Him. The answer wasn't just offered to leave speechless His opponents, but instead Jesus advances beyond the limitations of Roman rule to the higher obligation to God. You stand in sheer astonishment at the absolute wisdom of Jesus. You are not alone.

Eventually Jesus expounds upon this verse by answering the question of the greatest of commandments. In another simple answer, He points us to a foundation of love.

Jesus answered, "The most important one says: 'People of Israel, you have only one Lord and God. You must love him with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. The second most important commandment says: 'Love others as much as you love yourself.' No other commandment is more important than these.'" (Mk 12:29-31 CEV)

In our day, priorities are mixed and we are drawn in multiple directions at the whim of seemingly insurmountable compulsions to go and do. Jesus reminds us that the foundational truth of His love should shade all the going and doing. Look at how the two commandments break down. First, everything starts with Him. There is only one God and there is no sense in proceeding until that is understood. Next, we move toward our love for Him. This love is identified as being carried out in four manifestations, namely, our

heart, soul, mind and strength. We are called to love God with all our heart placing nothing else on this throne. Then we are to love Him with our innermost being or soul. This soul was created and fashioned by Him, and here in the soul the created looks back to the Creator with love for His design. Our mind is the processor of what we see, hear, say, touch and learn. We are to love Him as we look around creation and marvel at his work. Finally, with all the strength we can muster we render that back to the Source of our strength in adoration.

After establishing our love for God, Jesus directs us toward others. With our heart, soul, mind and strength full of love for God we let that pour out uninhibited. The truth is the truly surrendered Christian can't stop it, therefore liberating all the priorities of this world to come into crystal clear alignment. We are aligned with Jesus. His priorities become our priorities.

Woody is a member of Broadmoor Church, Madison.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

THE BAPTIST Record

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

Atlanta area Haitian congregation focuses on orphans

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—An Atlanta-area Haitian congregation is refocusing a planned trip to Haiti because they have learned eight children with family ties to the church have been orphaned in the Haitian capital, Port-au-Prince.

Now, pastor Seneque Saintil of the 150-member Mitspa Haitian Baptist Church in Norcross, Ga., plans to lead a team to Haiti in a mission that has taken on greater urgency.

Not only will the church take much-needed money and supplies to the earthquake-shattered island, they also hope to bring home precious cargo: five girls and three boys, ages 5 months to 8 years old.

"A woman in my church is the aunt of these children," Saintil said. "She spoke to other family members on the island who told her the children were alive."

United Nations relief officials estimate there may be 1 million youngsters who lost at least one parent in the Jan. 12 quake or are separated from their families, according to news reports. Because the children have no one to care for them, they are more vulnerable to disease, child predators and other risks.

Stuart Lang, associational mission action consultant for the Georgia Baptist Convention, led the church in a disaster relief training session Jan. 23. Saintil said he worked non-stop to translate a 24-page disaster relief manual from English to French.

"We want to get Haitians

ready when we go to Haiti to do missions, so they can be ready to help," Saintil said in a phone interview.

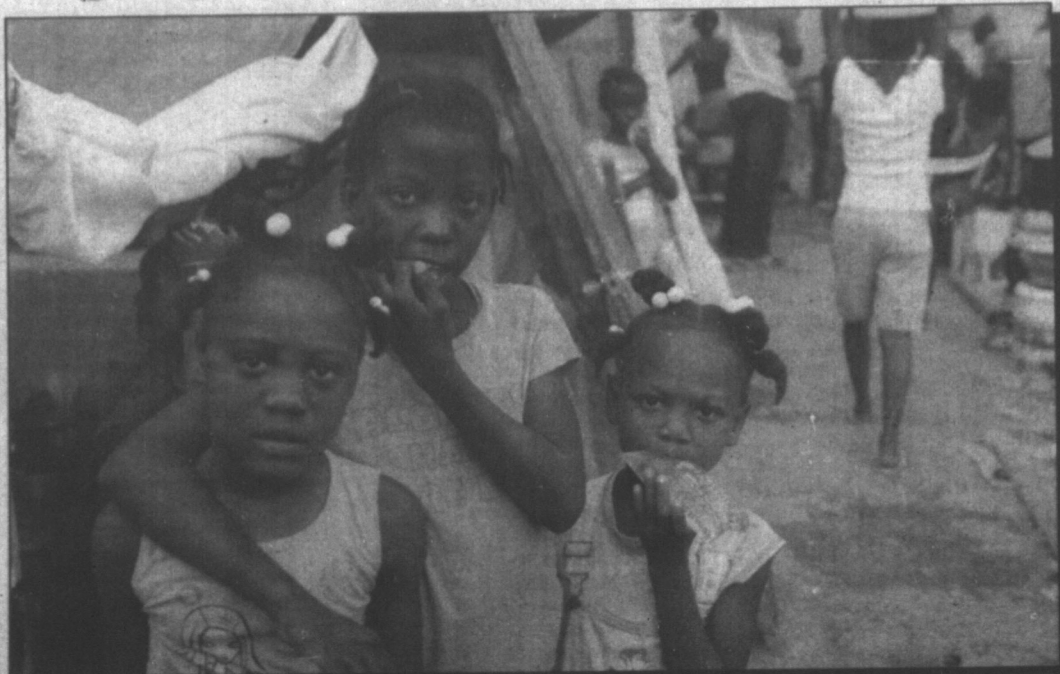
More than half of Mitspa's members have lost loved ones in the quake. However, in recent days, relatives learned that more family members are homeless, living on the streets of Port-au-Prince.

"Some of them, they have a lot of stress, especially those who have discovered they have family members who are orphans," Saintil said. "Some of them have stayed in prayer and have stayed united. We hope that something good will come out of this crisis."

If Saintil makes it to Haiti, he hopes to return by Sunday, Jan. 31, to speak at an Alabama church where a classmate at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary serves as pastor. Saintil attends classes at the main campus in New Orleans and at the seminary's North Georgia extension campus.

The seminary has deep ties to Haiti, with an established certificate program that has trained 159 ministers for the pastorate. Many of those former students serve house churches on the island.

Saintil and his church are collecting food, water, clothing, personal hygiene items, medicine and other necessities to send to Haiti. In the initial days, however, the going has been slow.



ORPHANED - Relief officials estimate perhaps 1 million children lost at least one parent in the Jan. 12 Haiti earthquake. A Haitian congregation in the Atlanta area has learned eight children with family ties to the church were orphaned by the quake. Pastor Seneque Saintil of Mitspa Haitian Baptist Church in Norcross, Ga., is leading a team to Haiti in an effort to bring those children (not pictured) to the United States. (BP Photo)

"I think it's great that people are contributing to the Red Cross and CARE, but we as a church are going to be doing one-on-one ministry in Haiti and in the community there," Saintil said.

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Saturday, February 20

Sessions for over-comers, parents, spouses, family members, youth, friends, ministry leaders

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JUST FOR THE RECORD

1. **Sacrifice of Love:** Haiti Benefit Concert, Saturday, February 13, at 7 PM, First Baptist Church, Richland, featuring Topherman and Escape to Daylight, with special guests Unbroken and the Movement. Free concert, love offering will be taken. 100% proceeds will go to the people of Haiti, through the MS Baptist Convention Board.
2. **Calvary Church, Silver Creek,** is hosting a Winter Bible Study in Matthew Feb. 28 - Mar. 3. Archie Herrin, leader; Tim Robertson, pastor.
3. **Lakeshore Church, Jackson,** is hosting Lanny Moody, "Mr. Dynamic," Feb. 12 - 14. Moody will share his Christian comedy Fri., 6:30 p.m., as a part of a youth night emphasis and fellowship. He will share at the church's Valentine banquet Sat.; cost, \$10; RSVP to (601) 373-6677. He will share Sun. at 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.

252	First Baptist Church	Purvis	\$2,160.00	395	Driver's Flat Baptist Church	Oxford	\$1,400.00
253	First Baptist Church	Columbia	\$2,150.00	396	Mount Vernon Baptist Church	Newton	\$1,400.00
254	Chunky Baptist Church	Chunky	\$2,150.00	397	Straight Bayou Baptist Church	Anguilla	\$1,400.00
255	Hillcrest Baptist Church	New Albany	\$2,135.01	398	Cary Baptist Church	Cary	\$1,395.00
256	Christ Baptist Church	Greenwood	\$2,133.93	399	Salem Baptist Church	Golden	\$1,390.00
257	Bond Baptist Church	Philadelphia	\$2,129.00	400	Galilee Baptist Church	Closter	\$1,380.00
258	Central Baptist Church	Brookhaven	\$2,116.00	401	Salem Baptist Church	Potts Camp	\$1,376.80
259	Ethel Baptist Church	Ethel	\$2,095.52	402	Pheba Baptist Church	Pheba	\$1,376.53
260	Second Baptist Church	Kosciusko	\$2,093.60	403	Hepzibah Baptist Church	Vossburg	\$1,376.30
261	Center Hill Baptist Church	Ecu	\$2,084.53	404	Mount Olive Baptist Church	Philadelphia	\$1,366.86
262	Phalti Baptist Church	Prentiss	\$2,068.23	405	Ebenezer Baptist Church	Bassfield	\$1,363.21
263	First Baptist Church	Coffeeville	\$2,055.00	406	New Hope Baptist Church	Mount Olive	\$1,360.00
264	Friendship Baptist Church	Sturgis	\$2,054.32	407	Morgantown Baptist Church	Natchez	\$1,349.29
265	First Baptist Church	Lumberton	\$2,048.33	408	Magnolia Baptist Church	Laurel	\$1,342.00
266	First Baptist Church	Winona	\$2,048.00	409	Bassfield Baptist Church	Bassfield	\$1,334.00
267	Shiloh Baptist Church	Big Creek	\$2,037.53	410	Siloam Baptist Church	Meadville	\$1,332.86
268	Mount Horeb Baptist Church	Collins	\$2,033.78	411	Gooden Lake Baptist Church	Belzoni	\$1,332.00
269	Doty Springs Baptist Church	Mc Cool	\$2,032.09	412	Union West Baptist Church	Oxford	\$1,331.75
270	Society Hill Baptist Church	Oak Vale	\$2,018.75	413	First Baptist Church	Raleigh	\$1,327.75
271	First Baptist Church	Lambert	\$2,008.08	414	Fellowship Baptist Church	Bellefontaine	\$1,327.00
272	Mars Hill Baptist Church	Philadelphia	\$2,000.00	415	First Baptist Church, Deisle	Pass Christian	\$1,325.10
273	Hopewell Baptist Church	Mc Cool	\$2,000.00	416	Puckett Baptist Church	Puckett	\$1,318.44
274	Pope Baptist Church	Pope	\$2,000.00	417	Wellman Baptist Church	Bogue Chitto	\$1,313.80
275	Short Creek Baptist Church	Yazoo City	\$2,000.00	418	Pleasant Grove Baptist Church	Woodland	\$1,300.00
276	Morrison Chapel Baptist Church	Cleveland	\$1,999.00	419	Bethlehem Baptist Church	Benton	\$1,300.00
277	Harmony Baptist Church	Louisville	\$1,998.89	420	First Baptist Church	Steen	\$1,300.00
278	Tuscumbia Baptist Church	Booneville	\$1,998.00	421	Easthaven Baptist Church	Brookhaven	\$1,300.00
279	Arbor Grove Baptist Church	Houston	\$1,995.00	422	Courtland Baptist Church	Courtland	\$1,300.00
280	Interstate Baptist Church	Shaw	\$1,994.92	423	First Baptist Church	Louise	\$1,300.00
281	Kennedy Springs Baptist Church	Magee	\$1,994.66	424	Park Place Baptist Church	Brandon	\$1,298.50
282	Hickory Grove Baptist Church	Coldwater	\$1,981.85	425	Loxahoma Baptist Church	Senatobia	\$1,297.11
283	Cedar Grove Baptist Church	Columbia	\$1,980.92	426	Calvary Baptist Church	Macon	\$1,270.56
284	Good Hope Baptist Church	Philadelphia	\$1,976.75	427	Dekalb Baptist Church	De Kalb	\$1,270.00
285	Corinth Baptist Church	Magee	\$1,972.00	428	Goodyear Baptist Church	Picayune	\$1,265.06
286	Calvary Baptist Church	New Augusta	\$1,968.64	429	Parkview Baptist Church	Picayune	\$1,264.30
287	Crane Creek Baptist Church	Perkinston	\$1,965.49	430	Siloam Baptist Church	Magee	\$1,260.01
288	Grace Memorial Baptist Church	Gulfpot	\$1,955.00	431	White Oak Baptist Church	Philadelphia	\$1,260.00
289	Beulah Baptist Church	Decatut	\$1,940.15	432	South Crossroads Baptist Church	Iuka	\$1,260.00
290	Peoples Baptist Church	Ripley	\$1,930.06	433	Center Terrace Baptist Church	Canton	\$1,255.00
291	Sturgis Baptist Church	Sturgis	\$1,915.27	434	Union Baptist Church	Nettleton	\$1,253.00
292	North Columbia Baptist Church	Columbia	\$1,904.00	435	Braxton Baptist Church	Braxton	\$1,250.00
293	Immanuel Baptist Church	Greenwood	\$1,898.06	436	Woodland Hills Baptist Church	Jackson	\$1,249.00
294	Bogue Chitto Baptist Church	Tylertown	\$1,894.47	437	Sunrise Baptist Church	Carthage	\$1,239.30
295	Bethel Baptist Church	Poplarville	\$1,893.26	438	Barton First Baptist Church	Byhalia	\$1,227.00
296	Macedonia Baptist Church	Brookhaven	\$1,880.00	439	Grove Baptist Church	Shubuta	\$1,225.85
297	Fellowship Baptist Church	Starkville	\$1,870.20	440	Airport Baptist Church	Grenada	\$1,225.37
298	Remus Baptist Church	Carthage	\$1,860.00	441	First Baptist Church	Ellisville	\$1,223.00
299	First Baptist Church	McLain	\$1,857.00	442	Port Gibson Baptist Church	Port Gibson	\$1,220.00
300	Clifton Baptist Church	Forest	\$1,854.50	443	Limestone Baptist Church	Nettleton	\$1,213.59
301	First Baptist Church	Flora	\$1,850.00	444	Pleasant Hill Baptist Church	Calhoun City	\$1,210.00
302	First Baptist Church	Grenada	\$1,843.00	445	Calvary West Point Baptist Church	West Point	\$1,210.00
303	New Zion Baptist Church	Sallis	\$1,826.94	446	Good Hope Baptist Church	Pearl	\$1,209.00
304	Sallis Baptist Church	Crystal Springs	\$1,820.52	447	Hebron Baptist Church	Benton	\$1,205.00
305	Hopewell Baptist Church	Lena	\$1,817.23	448	Sebastopol Baptist Church	Sebastopol	\$1,205.00
306	Tuscola Baptist Church	Pearl	\$1,810.00	449	Ecu Baptist Church	Ecu	\$1,202.00
307	Eastside Baptist Church	Crystal Springs	\$1,810.00	450	Water Oak Baptist Church	Waynesboro	\$1,200.65
308	Mount Zion Baptist Church	Lena	\$1,800.00	451	Broadway Baptist Church	Southaven	\$1,200.00
309	Glenfield Baptist Church	Crystal Springs	\$1,800.00	452	Sharkey-Issaquena Baptist Association	Rolling Fork	\$1,200.00
310	Carterville Baptist Church	Petal	\$1,800.00	453	Pilgrim's Rest Baptist Church	Tupelo	\$1,200.00
311	Oloh First Baptist Church	Sumrall	\$1,800.00	454	Grace Memorial Baptist Church	Carthage	\$1,200.00
312	Star Baptist Church	Star	\$1,792.00	455	Midway Baptist Church	Florence	\$1,200.00
313	Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church	Dumas	\$1,788.53	456	Mount Zion Baptist Church	Brookhaven	\$1,200.00
314	Providence Baptist Church	Hattiesburg	\$1,787.00	457	Friendship Baptist Church	Quitman	\$1,200.00
315	Calvary Baptist Church	Corinth	\$1,786.58	458	Calvary Baptist Church	Walnut	\$1,200.00
316	Rocky Creek Baptist Church	Lucedale	\$1,784.34	459	County Line Baptist Church	Roxie	\$1,200.00
317	Longview Baptist Church	Belden	\$1,783.00	460	Roxie Baptist Church	Hernando	\$1,200.00
318	Fernwood Baptist Church	Fernwood	\$1,776.49	461	Parkway Baptist Church	Mount Olive	\$1,200.00
319	First Baptist Church	Brooklyn	\$1,756.37	462	Oak Grove Baptist Church	Jackson	\$1,200.00
320	Leaf Baptist Church	McLain	\$1,750.00	463	Lakeshore Baptist Church	Liberty	\$1,200.00
321	Crystal Springs Baptist Church	Tylertown	\$1,750.00	464	Bethel Baptist Church	Holcomb	\$1,197.00
322	Mantee Baptist Church	Mantee	\$1,742.00	465	New Palestine Baptist Church	Picayune	\$1,194.85
323	Eden Baptist Church	Yazoo City	\$1,736.27	466	Mount Pleasant Baptist Church	Gloster	\$1,194.40
324	Longview Heights Baptist Church	Olive Branch	\$1,729.76	467	Meadowood Baptist Church	Amory	\$1,194.00
325	Elon Baptist Church	Macon	\$1,725.00	468	Mount Carmel Baptist Church	Carthage	\$1,194.27
326	Shuqualak Baptist Church	Shuqualak	\$1,725.00	469	Trinity Baptist Church	Vicksburg	\$1,191.66
327	Moak's Creek Baptist Church	Summit	\$1,720.00	470	First Baptist Church	Wiggins	\$1,191.00
328	Grace Baptist Church	Laurel	\$1,714.91	471	Ludlow Baptist Church	Ludlow	\$1,178.82
329	Georgetown Baptist Church	Georgetown	\$1,704.25	472	Melrose Baptist Church	Benton	\$1,175.00
330	Causeville Baptist Church	Meridian	\$1,700.43	473	Bethany Baptist Church	Potts Camp	\$1,175.00
331	Corinth Baptist Church	Carthage	\$1,700.00	474	County Line Baptist Church	Crystal Springs	\$1,166.66
332	Central Baptist Church	McComb	\$1,700.00	475	First Baptist Church	Salatia	\$1,157.35
333	Bayou View Baptist Church	Gulfpot	\$1,674.60	476	Bethel Baptist Church	Monticello	\$1,156.77
334	First Baptist Church	Rosedale	\$1,670.00	477	Wade Baptist Church	Pascagoula	\$1,142.35
335	Gum Grove Baptist Church	Brookhaven	\$1,668.44	478	Big Level Baptist Church	Wiggins	\$1,139.13
336	First Baptist Church	Bruce	\$1,665.00	479	Montgomery Baptist Church	Summit	\$1,136.18
337	Pilgrim's Rest Baptist Church	Houlka	\$1,663.59	480	Kokomo Baptist Church	Kokomo	\$1,136.00
338	First Baptist Church	Clara	\$1,650.00	481	Wyatte Baptist Church	Senatobia	\$1,134.00
339	First Baptist Church	Bay St Louis	\$1,649.66	482	Scooba Baptist Church	Scooba	\$1,133.07
340	First Baptist Church	Poplarville	\$1,634.55	483	Buck Creek Baptist Church	Richton	\$1,132.58
341	Oldtown Baptist Church	Pittsboro	\$1,631.00	484	New Prospect Baptist Church	Oxford	\$1,130.40
342	Brooksville Baptist Church	Brooksville	\$1,619.40	485	New Home Baptist Church	Fulton	\$1,128.91
343	Bethel Baptist Church	Bogue Chitto	\$1,615.88	486	First Baptist Church	Collinsville	\$1,125.00
344	Locust Hill Baptist Church	Blue Springs	\$1,615.00	487	Mount Vernon Baptist Church	Tupelo	\$1,121.10
345	First Baptist Church	Gautier	\$1,610.00	488	New Haven Baptist Church	Weir	\$1,116.99
346	Standing Pine Baptist Church	Walnut Grove	\$1,601.44	489	Williamsburg Baptist Church	Collins	\$1,116.34
347	Rome Baptist Church	Rome	\$1,600.00	490	French Camp Baptist Church	French Camp	\$1,105.51
348	Bogue Chitto Baptist Church	Bogue Chitto	\$1,600.00	491	Schooner Valley Baptist Church	Houlka	\$1,103.30
349	New Zion Baptist Church	Tylertown	\$1,592.12	492	Adatan Baptist Church	Starkville	\$1,101.88
350	Fellowship Baptist Church	Enterprise	\$1,589.55	493	Acts Baptist Church	Mize	\$1,100.00
351	Pilgrim's Rest Baptist Church	Crystal Springs	\$1,583.35	494	Lowery Creek Baptist Church	Seminary	\$1,100.00
352	Union Baptist Church	Picayune	\$1,564.00	495	Plainway Baptist Church	Laurel	\$1,095.56
353	Temple Baptist Church	Myrtle	\$1,562.00	496	Oakland Baptist Church	Walnut	\$1,095.46
354	Calvary Baptist Church	Newton	\$1,560.71	497	Mount Pleasant Baptist Church	Mt Pleasant	\$1,095.28
355	McCool Baptist Church	Mc Cool	\$1,559.96	498	West Union Baptist Church	Carriere	\$1,091.72
356	Skene Baptist Church	Skene	\$1,544.37	499	Crossroads Baptist Church	Diberville	\$1,085.00
357	First Baptist Church	Itta Bena	\$1,537.00	500	North Carrollton Baptist Church	North Carrollton	\$1,083.50
358	West Ripley Baptist Church	Ripley	\$1,535.00	501	Grace Baptist Church	Philadelphia	\$1,083.34
359	Scotland Baptist Church	Winona	\$1,531.49	502	First Baptist Church	Philadelphia	\$1,080.00
360	Clear Springs Baptist Church	Coffeeville	\$1,530.91	503	Beatline Baptist Church	Philadelphia	\$1,065.00
361	Harmony Baptist Church	Crystal Springs	\$1,515.00	504	First Baptist Church, Chicora	Buckatunna	\$1,059.00
362	Hathorn Baptist Church	Columbia	\$1,513.00	505	Horseshoe Baptist Church	Tchula	\$1,055.00
363	Bay Springs Baptist Church	Bay Springs	\$1,502.94	506	Peace Baptist Church	Gulfpot	\$1,052.70
364	Tocowa Baptist Church	Batesville	\$1,500.00	507	Furns Baptist Church	Pontotoc	\$1,050.00
365	Cumberland Baptist Church	Maben	\$1,500.00	508	Lebanon Baptist Church	Ripley	\$1,050.00
366	Conehatta Baptist Church	Conehatta	\$1,500.00	509	Highland Baptist Church	Senatobia	\$1,031.25
367	Trinity Baptist Church	Fulton	\$1,500.00	510	Tuxehena Baptist Church	Perkinston	\$1,030.05
368	Twin Lakes Baptist Church	Madison	\$1,500.00	511	Marion Baptist Association	Columbia	\$1,028.40
369	West McComb Baptist Church	McComb	\$1,500.00	512	Macedonia Baptist Church	Mendenhall	\$1,027.88
370	Harrisburg Baptist Church	Tupelo	\$1,500.00	513	Glading Baptist Church	Magnolia	\$1,024.07
371	Auburn Baptist Church	Tupelo	\$1,500.00	514	First Baptist Church	Meridian	\$1,024.00
372	Center Ridge Baptist Church	De Kalb	\$1,500.00	515	Pinckney Baptist Church	Union	\$1,022.43
373	Roundaway Baptist Church	Doddsville	\$1,498.47	516	Trace Ridge Baptist Church	Ridgeland	\$1,020.86
374	County Line Baptist Church	Carthage	\$1,497.73	517	Tishomingo Baptist Church	Tishomingo	\$1,020.00
375	East Pleasant Grove Baptist Church	Quitman	\$1,495.00	518	Blythe Creek Baptist Church	Mathiston	\$1,017.58
376	Border Springs Baptist Church	Caledonia	\$1,473.94	519	Taylor Baptist Church	Taylor	\$1,014.18
377	Morgan Chapel Baptist Church	Sturgis	\$1,468.00	520	First Baptist Church	Magnolia	\$1,010.00
378	Sylva Rena Baptist Church	Water Valley	\$1,466.00	521	Arlington Heights Baptist Church	Pascagoula	\$1,007.00
379	Mount Olive Baptist Church	Smithdale	\$1,466.00	522	Antioch Baptist Church	Union	\$1,005.00
380	Oak Dale Baptist Church	Pontotoc	\$1,464.50	523	Calvary Baptist Church	Summit	\$1,002.34
381	Crowder Baptist Church	Crowder	\$1,463.03	524	Calvary Baptist Church	Petal	\$1,000.00
382	Pine Grove Baptist Church	Hickory Flat	\$1,454.65	525	First Baptist Church, Polkville	Morton	\$1,000.00
383	Conway Baptist Church	Carthage	\$1,454.25	526	Rock Branch Baptist Church	Union	\$1,000.00
384	New Prospect Baptist Church	Iuka	\$1,450.00	527	Mount Pleasant Baptist Church	West	\$1,000.00
385	Enterprise Baptist Church	Liberty	\$1,449.46	528	New Haven Baptist Church	Terry	\$1,000.00
386	Cedar Grove Baptist Church	Lena	\$1,448.00	529	Mineral Wells Baptist Church	Mineral Wells	\$1,000.00
387	Spring Hill Baptist Church	Oakland	\$1,425.00	530	Birmingham Ridge Baptist Church	Saltillo	\$1,000.00
388	Ridgecrest Baptist Church	Madison	\$1,424.51	531	New Zion Baptist Church	Weir	\$1,000.00
389	Calvary Baptist Church	Holly Springs	\$1,418.98	532	Shady Grove Baptist Church	Lucedale	\$1,000.00
390	Union Baptist Church	Mize	\$1,416.80	533			
391	Heritage Baptist Church	Lucedale	\$1,408.59				
392	Gatesville Baptist Church	Crystal Springs	\$1,404.11				
393	Golden Central Baptist Church	Golden	\$1,403.50				
394	Main Street Baptist Church	Hattiesburg	\$1,402.30				



HONOR ROLL OF CHURCHES

Each January we evaluate the cash gifts received by The Baptist Children's Village during the previous twelve months. In this evaluation, it has become customary to list the Mississippi Baptist churches in descending order of total cash gifts. This does not include non-cash gift items or volunteer efforts that many churches contribute. This evaluation and analysis has become known as the "Honor Roll of Churches."

Dr. Rory Lee, Executive Director

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RANK	CHURCH NAME	CITY	2008 GIFTS
1	Immanuel Baptist Church	Vicksburg	\$39,593.81
2	Morrison Heights Baptist Church	Clinton	\$37,356.08
3	Poplar Springs Drive Baptist Church	Meridian	\$22,207.03
4	First Baptist Church	Water Valley	\$20,915.00
5	Bel Aire Baptist Church	Gulfport	\$20,202.00
6	Broadmoor Baptist Church	Madison	\$20,150.00
7	Bunker Hill Baptist Church	Columbia	\$20,060.66
8	Brandon Baptist Church	Brandon	\$17,593.88
9	Trinity First Baptist Church	Waynesboro	\$15,665.16
10	First Baptist Church	Crystal Springs	\$15,083.21
11	First Baptist Church	Jackson	\$15,076.00
12	First Baptist Church, Runnelstown	Petal	\$14,588.95
13	Calvary Baptist Church	Tupelo	\$13,239.49
14	Arlington Baptist Church	Bogue Chitto	\$13,149.00
15	Williamsville Baptist Church	Kosciusko	\$12,839.72
16	First Baptist Church	Kosciusko	\$12,773.91
17	First Baptist Church	Kosciusko	\$12,250.73
18	First Baptist Church	Madison	\$11,925.57
19	First Baptist Church	Corinth	\$11,513.34
20	Memorial Baptist Church	Yazoo City	\$10,753.57
21	Leaf River Baptist Church	Richton	\$10,375.20
22	Seminary Baptist Church	Collins	\$10,181.01
23	Trinity Baptist Church	Seminary	\$10,175.18
24	Liberty Baptist Church	Philadelphia	\$10,156.61
25	East Philadelphia Baptist Church	Liberty	\$9,922.77
26	Sand Hill Baptist Church	Philadelphia	\$9,905.00
27	Fellowship Baptist Church	Richton	\$9,830.19
28	First Baptist Church	Meridian	\$9,327.00
29	North Greenwood Baptist Church	Richton	\$8,773.11
30	Oak Grove Baptist Church	Greenwood	\$8,137.07
31	Rienzi Baptist Church	Mendenhall	\$8,102.28
32	Walshall Baptist Church	Rienzi	\$8,100.00
33	Rolling Creek Baptist Church	Walshall	\$7,746.45
34	First Baptist Church	Quitman	\$7,740.00
35	First Baptist Church	Batesville	\$7,722.08
36	First Baptist Church	Meridian	\$7,656.28
37	First Baptist Church	Canton	\$7,600.00
38	Topisaw Baptist Church	Bogue Chitto	\$7,600.00
39	First Baptist Church	Newton	\$7,543.07
40	First Baptist Church	Picayune	\$7,522.77
41	First Baptist Church	Raymond	\$7,450.00
42	First Baptist Church	Laurel	\$7,392.56
43	X-Tended Missions Network	Laurel	\$7,316.15
44	Vaiden Baptist Church	Hernando	\$7,238.68
45	Calvary Baptist Church	Vaiden	\$7,121.68
46	First Baptist Church	Bogue Chitto	\$7,026.05
47	First Baptist Church, Lyman	Sardis	\$6,944.11
48	First Baptist Church	Gulfport	\$6,920.79
49	First Baptist Church	Clinton	\$6,858.00
50	Pine Forest Baptist Church	Hazlehurst	\$6,774.91
51	Indian Springs Baptist Church	Collinsville	\$6,750.89
52	First Baptist Church	Laurel	\$6,708.24
53	Parkway Baptist Church	Vicksburg	\$6,634.56
54	Bovina Baptist Church	Kosciusko	\$6,610.00
55	First Baptist Church	Vicksburg	\$6,448.74
56	First Baptist Church	Brookhaven	\$6,428.00
57	Spring Creek Baptist Church	Nettleton	\$6,349.00
58	Rock Hill Baptist Church	Philadelphia	\$6,301.25
59	First Baptist Church	Brandon	\$6,284.78
60	First Baptist Church	Eupora	\$6,275.00
61	Sylvan Baptist Church	Quitman	\$6,238.91
62	Crossview Baptist Church	Kaleigh	\$6,075.00
63	First Baptist Church	Brandon	\$6,052.00
64	First Baptist Church	Buckatunga	\$6,000.00
65	First Baptist Church	Clinton	\$5,960.69
66	First Baptist Church	Hurley	\$5,956.27
67	First Baptist Church	Greenville	\$5,880.92
68	Fredonia Baptist Church	Louisville	\$5,861.00
69	Hurricane Creek Baptist Church	New Albany	\$5,830.74
70	First Baptist Church	Sandy Hook	\$5,770.00
71	Branch Baptist Church	Collins	\$5,766.41
72	First Baptist Church	Morton	\$5,718.64
73	Old Silver Creek Baptist Church	Senatobia	\$5,651.41
74	Pleasant Hill Baptist Church	Silver Creek	\$5,550.37
75	Steep Hollow Baptist Church	Carthage	\$5,547.67
76	Northminster Baptist Church	Poplarville	\$5,520.00
77	Springfield Baptist Church	Jackson	\$5,430.00
78	Mount Zion Baptist Church-Tate	Morton	\$5,416.66
79	Shiloh Baptist Church	Independence	\$5,415.14
80	Westwood Baptist Church	Port Gibson	\$5,409.47
81	Highland Baptist Church	Meridian	\$5,209.96
82	Thrasher Baptist Church	Vicksburg	\$5,102.28
83	Tylertown Baptist Church	Booneville	\$5,057.49
84	Topoka Baptist Church	Tylertown	\$5,023.21
85	West Kemper Baptist Church	Jayess	\$5,000.00
86	Silver Creek Baptist Church	De Kalb	\$4,962.32
87	First Baptist Church	McComb	\$4,925.00
88	First Baptist Church	Starkville	\$4,919.00
89	First Baptist Church	Biloxi	\$4,914.95
90	Valley Park Baptist Church	Brandon	\$4,913.63
91	First Baptist Church	Valley Park	\$4,835.59
92	First Baptist Church	McComb	\$4,800.00
93	New Hope Baptist Church	Natchez	\$4,760.00
94	Forest Baptist Church	Meridian	\$4,725.00
95	Grays Creek Baptist Church	Forest	\$4,710.91
96	Valley Grove Baptist Church	Hernando	\$4,651.55
97	North Winona Baptist Church	Tupelo	\$4,572.55
98	Wildwood Baptist Church	Winona	\$4,570.40
99	Meadville Baptist Church	Clinton	\$4,520.00
100	Bethany Baptist Church	Meadville	\$4,510.00
101	Bucatan Baptist Church	Calhoun City	\$4,495.94
102	First Baptist Church	Meridian	\$4,462.92
103	Old Pearl Valley Baptist Church	Booneville	\$4,400.00
104	Murphy Creek Baptist Church	Philadelphia	\$4,391.99
105	Magee's Creek Baptist Church	Louisville	\$4,379.76
106	Unity Baptist Church	Jayess	\$4,375.02
107	Stanton Baptist Church	Harrisville	\$4,370.49
108	Anchor Baptist Church	Natchez	\$4,356.00

109	Briar Hill Baptist Church	Florence	\$4,281.41
110	Dry Creek Baptist Church	Mendenhall	\$4,258.00
111	Mount Moriah Baptist Church	Bryce	\$4,220.00
112	Mount Zion Baptist Church	Columbus	\$4,200.00
113	DeSoto Baptist Church	Shubuta	\$4,162.29
114	First Baptist Church	Foxworth	\$4,148.14
115	Clarke-Venable Baptist Church	Decatur	\$4,146.31
116	Ackerman Baptist Church	Ackerman	\$4,127.84
117	Midway Baptist Church	Meridian	\$4,126.00
118	Church Road Baptist Church	Horn Lake	\$4,063.40
119	Parkway Baptist Church	Houston	\$4,004.47
120	Carrollton Baptist Church	Carrollton	\$3,976.23
121	First Baptist Church	Long Beach	\$3,956.70
122	New Sight Baptist Church	Brookhaven	\$3,955.82
123	Hollandale Baptist Church	Hollandale	\$3,900.00
124	First Baptist Church	Belzoni	\$3,899.14
125	Woolmarket Baptist Church	Biloxi	\$3,890.11
126	First Baptist Church	Okolona	\$3,882.01
127	Central Baptist Church	Mc Neill	\$3,874.22
128	Deer Creek Baptist Church	Rolling Fork	\$3,855.00
129	Meadow Grove Baptist Church	Brandon	\$3,765.00
130	First Baptist Church	Abbeville	\$3,736.48
131	Fairview Baptist Church	Columbus	\$3,735.00
132	Chaparral Baptist Church	Waynesboro	\$3,716.83
133	First Baptist Church	Mathiston	\$3,716.00
134	Goodwater Baptist Church	Magee	\$3,665.30
135	County Line Baptist Church	Union	\$3,654.08
136	Shiloh Baptist Church	Louisville	\$3,651.32
137	Eastwood Baptist Church	Indianola	\$3,634.65
138	Neshoba Baptist Church	Union	\$3,631.27
139	High Hill Baptist Church	Philadelphia	\$3,627.28
140	First Baptist Church	Pearl	\$3,617.04
141	First Baptist Church	Union	\$3,614.93
142	Wheeler Grove Baptist Church	Corinth	\$3,602.01
143	Desoto Hills Baptist Church	Southaven	\$3,596.74
144	Calvary Baptist Church	Waynesboro	\$3,545.50
145	Rocky Point Baptist Church	Carthage	\$3,516.70
146	Pineview Baptist Church	Laurel	\$3,507.08
147	Arm Baptist Church	Silver Creek	\$3,502.85
148	Pleasant Hill Baptist Church	Quitman	\$3,457.71
149	Attala Baptist Association	Kosciusko	\$3,450.08
150	Bethsaida Baptist Church	French Camp	\$3,369.47
151	Indian Springs Baptist Church	Petal	\$3,323.00
152	Dublin Baptist Church	Carson	\$3,316.61
153	Ingomar Baptist Church	New Albany	\$3,300.00
154	D'Lo Baptist Church	D'Lo	\$3,291.22
155	Hillcrest Baptist Church	Byram	\$3,250.00
156	Oak Hill Baptist Church	Booneville	\$3,235.13
157	West End Baptist Church	West Point	\$3,202.66
158	First Baptist Church	Indianola	\$3,196.22
159	Mount Moriah Baptist Church	Bogue Chitto	\$3,192.96
160	First Baptist Church	State Line	\$3,189.61
161	Liberty Baptist Church	New Albany	\$3,171.00
162	New Liberty Baptist Church	Morton	\$3,120.00
163	Brewer Baptist Church	Shannon	\$3,097.06
164	Emmanuel Baptist Church	Grenada	\$3,081.00
165	Temple Baptist Church	Hattiesburg	\$3,059.00
166	Arkabutla Baptist Church	Arkabutla	\$3,057.79
167	Ephesus Baptist Church	Forest	\$3,050.00
168	First Baptist Church	Tupelo	\$3,032.00
169	Chesterville Baptist Church	Tupelo	\$3,012.39
170	Silver Springs Baptist Church	Osyka	\$3,000.00
171	West Jackson Street Church	Tupelo	\$3,000.00
172	First Baptist Church	Mendenhall	\$2,975.09
173	Mount Zion Baptist Church	Meridian	\$2,973.11
174	Tomnolen Baptist Church	Eupora	\$2,949.38
175	Newhebron Baptist Church	Newhebron	\$2,928.50
176	First Baptist Church	Charleston	\$2,896.22
177	Berea Baptist Church	Mc Cool	\$2,895.08
178	Pleasant Grove Baptist Church	Brookhaven	\$2,887.90
179	Cairo Baptist Church	Ecu	\$2,887.34
180	Sand Hill Baptist Church	Ellisville	\$2,852.00
181	Calvary Baptist Church	Greenwood	\$2,848.00
182	Macedonia Baptist Church	Myrtle	\$2,833.21
183	New Hope Baptist Church	Sumrall	\$2,833.00
184	New Harmony Baptist Church	Blue Springs	\$2,826.31
185	Ruleville Baptist Church	Ruleville	\$2,817.54
186	Oakland Baptist Church	Corinth	\$2,798.29
187	Oak Forest Baptist Church	Jackson	\$2,783.28
188	Beulah Baptist Church	Inverness	\$2,776.01
189	Liberty Baptist Church	Waynesboro	\$2,750.00
190	Pine Grove Baptist Church	Picayune	\$2,723.83
191	First Baptist Church	Cleveland	\$2,720.81
192	Good Hope Baptist Church	Richton	\$2,700.00
193	Harmony Baptist Church	Walnut	\$2,698.96
194	Beulah Baptist Church	Magee	\$2,693.81
195	First Baptist Church	Holly Springs	\$2,680.00
196	Ellison Ridge Baptist Church	Louisville	\$2,676.05
197	Oakvale Baptist Church	Oak Vale	\$2,659.46
198	Liberty Baptist Church	De Kalb	\$2,650.00
199	Calvary Baptist Church	Batesville	\$2,650.00
200	First Baptist Church	Terry	\$2,646.25
201	New Providence Baptist Church	Hazlehurst	\$2,645.00
202	Prentiss Baptist Church	Prentiss	\$2,643.30
203	First Baptist Church	Taylorsville	\$2,643.06
204	West Shady Grove Baptist Church	Waynesboro	\$2,621.48
205	Trinity Baptist Church	Carthage	\$2,620.00
206	Lexie Baptist Church	Tylertown	\$2,614.23
207	Alta Woods Baptist Church	Jackson	\$2,611.00
208	Southway Baptist Church	Brookhaven	\$2,608.51
209	Whitesand Baptist Church	Prentiss	\$2,605.00
210	Mount Nebo Baptist Church	Bay Springs	\$2,550.00
211	First Baptist Church	Ripley	\$2,544.96
212	Bethsaida Baptist Church	Philadelphia	\$2,544.42
213	Concord Baptist Church	Macon	\$2,541.00
214	Success Baptist Church	Saucier	\$2,532.80
215	Cornerstone Baptist Church	Batesville	\$2,531.47
216	Beacon Street Baptist Church	Philadelphia	\$2,506.82
217	Mount Pisgah Baptist Church	Carrollton	\$2,506.20
218	Perkinson Baptist Church	Perkinson	\$2,500.00
219	Selah Baptist Church	Ecu	\$2,475.00
220	First Baptist Church	Pascagoula	\$2,466.04
221	Union Baptist Church	Roxie	\$2,458.42
222	Smithville Baptist Church	Smithville	\$2,448.00
223	First Baptist Church	Amory	\$2,438.78
224	New Bethel Baptist Church	Carrollton	\$2,433.47
225	Midway Baptist Church	Jackson	\$2,425.00
226	First Baptist Church	Isola	\$2,422.50
227	Union Baptist Church	Meridian	\$2,410.40
228	Navilla Baptist Church	McComb	\$2,400.95
229	Gallman Baptist Church	Gallman	\$2,400.00
230	Evergreen Baptist Church	Louisville	\$2,400.00
231	Oak Hill Baptist Church	Pontotoc	\$2,400.00
232	New Hope Baptist Church	Gulfport	\$2,393.38
233	Kolola Springs Baptist Church	Caledonia	\$2,360.00
234	Union Baptist Church	Sardis	\$2,357.99
235	Zion Hill Baptist Church	Blue Springs	\$2,345.88
236	Main Street Baptist Church	Goodman	\$2,321.35
237	New Hope Baptist Church	Foxworth	\$2,315.62
238	Macedonia Baptist Church	Tupelo	\$2,305.00
239	Victory Baptist Church	Bassfield	\$2,305.00
240	First Baptist Church	Magee	\$2,300.00
241	Diamondhead Baptist Church	Diamondhead	\$2,299.75
242	Crystal Ridge Baptist Church	Louisville	\$2,286.94
243	Ellistown Baptist Church	Blue Springs	\$2,267.00
244	Leaf River Baptist Church	Forest	\$2,261.00
245	First Baptist Church	Coldwater	\$2,247.00
246	Casey Creek Baptist Church	Booneville	\$2,235.00
247	Bethel Baptist Church	Etta	\$2,206.06
248	Fellowship Baptist Church	Hernando	\$2,200.00
249	Holly Baptist Church	Corinth	\$2,192.56
250	First Baptist Church	Calhoun City	\$2,182.00
251	Macedonia Baptist Church	Byhalia	\$2,178.01

Teen pregnancy rate study oversimplified, experts say

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—A report by the Guttmacher Institute pointing to a one-year increase in the teenage pregnancy rate in America represents an agenda to discredit programs that promote sexual abstinence among adolescents, several observers have said.

The report, released Jan. 26, said that for the first time in more than a decade, the nation's teen pregnancy rate rose 3 percent in 2006, reflecting increases in teen birth and abortion rates of 4 percent and 1 percent, respectively.

"It coincides with an increase in rigid abstinence-only-until-marriage programs, which received major funding boosts under the Bush administration," said Heather Boonstra, a public policy associate with Guttmacher.

As media outlets across the country blared out the startling news, what they did not report is that the Guttmacher Institute was founded by Alan Guttmacher, a former president of Planned Parenthood and a leader in the pro-choice movement.

"Should we expect the Guttmacher Institute, the research arm for Planned Parenthood, to support abstinence messages?" Richard Ross, cofounder of the True Love Waits abstinence movement, told Baptist Press.

"Here is a similar question: Should we expect General Motors to work hard convincing the public to abandon cars for mass transit? Abstinence teenagers don't get pregnant and thus they don't contribute millions of dollars to the abortion industry. If you want to understand new directions in Washington related to abstinence, follow the money," Ross said.

Robert Rector, a senior research fellow at the Heritage Foundation, wrote a blog post for National Review Online noting the dash to blame the statistics on abstinence education.

"This is a bit hypocritical. In the decade after the federal government began its meager funding of abstinence education, teen pregnancy fell steadily," Rector wrote. "Safe-sex experts never linked that decline to abstinence education. But when the news went bad, they swiftly identified abstinence programs as the culprit."

Rector said the claim that teen pregnancy rose in 2006 depends on the use of the term "teen."

"For most people, 'teen pregnancy' implies pregnancy among high-schoolers, girls under age 18. According to Guttmacher's own data, the pregnancy rate for 15- to 17-year-old girls barely changed, and the rate for girls 14 and under (the group most affected by abstinence programs) actually dropped," Rector wrote.



"By contrast, the pregnancy and birth rates for young adult women aged 18 and 19 rose sharply. The rise in pregnancies and births in this age range is part of a much larger story: the collapse of marriage and explosive growth of out-of-wedlock births in lower income communities."

Valerie Huber, executive director of the National Abstinence Education Association, noted that the Guttmacher Institute didn't stop at reporting the statistics; it offered a specific reason for the increase.

"This simplistic charge demonstrates a tragic disregard of the many factors that contribute to the increase in teen pregnancy and birth rates," Huber said. "It is truly unfortunate that special interest groups are more concerned in using this pressing issue to advance their own anti-abstinence agenda rather than to devote their energies to finding real solutions. Unfortunately, the message of abstinence has been belittled, censored and mocked as unrealistic by groups disingenuously using research to misconstrue reality."

Huber said contraceptive sex education received more than four times the funding of abstinence education even during the Bush administration. Guttmacher attributed 100 percent of the blame to the approach that received only 25 percent of the money, she said.

"Research unmistakably

indicates that delaying sexual initiation rates and reducing the total number of lifetime partners is more valuable in protecting the sexual health of young people than simply passing out condoms," Huber said.

Guttmacher reported that about 7 percent of teenage girls got pregnant in 2006, a rate of 71.5 pregnancies per 1,000 teens. That's up slightly from 69.5 percent in 2005 but down significantly from 1990 when 12 percent of teenage girls got pregnant.

Jimmy Hester, cofounder of True Love Waits, told Baptist Press he disagrees with Guttmacher's claim that the significant drop in teen pregnancy rates in the 1990s was "overwhelmingly the result of more and better use of contraceptives among sexually active teens."

"The emergence of the sexual abstinence movement was the main difference in what happened in the early '90s that reversed the trends in teen pregnancy and sexual behavior, not better acceptance and use of contraception," Hester said.

In the early '90s, when LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention launched True Love Waits, teen pregnancy rates had increased steadily for 20 years.

"At the time, information about contraception and safe sex practices was all our teens had heard for some time. That's

what triggered the development of True Love Waits. Parents and teenagers told us they did not have a way to express their beliefs about sexual abstinence until marriage in a society that only lifted up safe sex messages," Hester said.

"We heard teenagers say that they didn't realize sexual abstinence was an option. They were conditioned by societal information to believe that premarital sex was not only expected but inevitable. So we launched True Love Waits, and other organizations emerged that resulted in the sexual abstinence movement gaining momentum and support," Hester said.

"A large number of students accepted the option of remaining sexually abstinent until marriage, expressed those beliefs and influenced other teenagers who were making decisions about their sexual behavior."

Ross said the drop in rates does not prove True Love Waits made the difference, but the movement's impact is worth considering. He also noted in the January issue of Christianity Today that the flurry of media activity claiming abstinence programs don't work, lumps together all teenagers who have ever made a pledge related to abstinence, including many who made pledges after "weak, brief and entirely secular programs in schools and community organizations."

True Love Waits is set apart, Ross said, because those who keep the promise to remain sexually abstinent until marriage "have moved beyond moralistic therapeutic deism" to an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ, keeping the pledge by the power of the Holy Spirit.

"But after years of strong support for purity campaigns, some churches and some youth leaders have moved on to other things. I am not at all surprised that teen pregnancy rates now are creeping up again," said Ross, a professor of student ministry at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Hester said the recent efforts to eliminate federal funding of abstinence education programs should be met with a response by churches.

"Since one segment of the abstinence movement is struggling with funding to carry the message to students, church leaders, parents and leaders in student organizations provide the best means of keeping the message before today's students," Hester said.

"This is especially true for student pastors and volunteer leaders in the church who can provide opportunities to educate students on the biblical truths of keeping sex within the marriage relationship, offering times to make a commitment to sexual abstinence until marriage, and supporting students in those commitments."